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PART V.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

IN THE

ASIATIC PROVINCES OF TURKEY.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Administrative Reforms in the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey.

Part V.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. .]

No. 1.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 509.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to my telegram No. 304 of the 18th instant, a copy of a despatch from Captain Clayton to Major Trotter on the subject of the recent earthquake on the shores of Lake Van.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 28.)

Sir, *Van, June 7, 1881.*

I HAVE to report that an earthquake occurred in this region on Monday, the 30th May, a little before 6 A.M. Here, in Van, the shock was very slight, consisting merely of a tremulous motion lasting for a few seconds; but I heard yesterday that at Bitlis the shock was severe enough to cause people to rush out of their houses in alarm. A village also, Téout, on the western shore of the Lake of Van, has been ruined, I fear with loss of life, though the reports as to the number of casualties are contradictory. I am taking steps to find out correctly what damage has been done, and if help is required I propose to employ for that purpose a portion of the money still in my hands from the funds entrusted to me by Lady Strangford. The ruined village lies at the foot of a large extinct volcano, the Nimroud Dagh, which tradition relates to have been active not more than 400 years ago, and the earthquake may therefore possibly have some connection with this mountain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON

No. 2.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 513.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to Mr. Plunkett's No. 427 of the 30th ultimo, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti, on the subject of brigandage in the Trebizond district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 33.)

Trebizond, June 11, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour in my despatch No. 29 of the 21st ultimo to call attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the public security in the Cazas of Yomura and Surmenah.

Last week information was received that a band of from twenty to twenty-five Mussulmans, most of them Lazis, it would seem, were about to commit depredations in that part of the vilayet, under the leadership of a certain Gunecharali Mehmed, of Rizeh, a known bravo, who more than once was summoned, but, of course, never appeared, before the Courts of Justice to be tried for murder.

The Governor-General immediately forwarded to the pursuit of the brigands all the available police force, consisting of twenty or thirty zaptiehs, but the Captain in command returned in town after a few days of fruitless search.

The band had crossed in the district of Gunushané, and plundered a Greek village of about 100 houses.

The Colonel of Police, who on the return of the Captain had been dispatched to Yomura by Sirri Pasha, managed, with the assistance of the local Beys and their men, to surround Mehmed's house while he was in it with his followers. A fight of eight hours succeeded, in which one of the Beys, Hassan Djeboglou, was severely wounded, and his son, together with one of his men and a zaptieh, were killed.

As Mehmed's band was armed with Martinis, and well provided with ammunition, and as his house is a strong stone construction two stories high, with loopholes, and could not be carried without a great sacrifice of life, the Colonel of Police sent for a mountain gun in order to batter in the walls.

Some delay occurred before permission was obtained from the Commander of the 4th Army Corps at Erzinghian to dispatch the gun with a few gunners, and when they reached the spot the band had decamped in the night, with the connivance, it is presumed, of one of the Beys, a certain Aslonoglou, who with his men was guarding one of the most important passages, and who found a pretext to send some way off the few zaptiehs stationed in the same spot. He was placed under arrest by the Colonel of Police, who is making an investigation.

Mehmed's child stated that her father was wounded in the leg. On searching the house a letter was discovered in which a Captain in the army, called Kiamil Efendi, and stationed at Yomura, was claiming the payment of the Martinis sold to Mehmed. Kiamil Efendi was apprehended, summarily tried by Siva Hassan Pasha at Trebizond, and condemned to be cashiered and imprisoned for three years.

The Colonel of Police is endeavouring to discover the whereabouts of Mehmed's band, all traces of which have been lost since their escape from his house.

I beg further to report that on Sunday last week a Greek of the village of Gallian, in the district of Matchka, was murdered by five Mussulmans while accompanying his wife to church, and that she escaped, but, I am told, is badly wounded.

No blame can be cast on the police for the prevailing insecurity. On the contrary, it is to be wondered at, with the inefficient condition in which this force is kept, more disorders do not take place.

There are rumours of another band of brigands on the old Erzeroum road, and, as there are Laz emigrants who have a natural propensity for adventurous expeditions, and many conscripts who have taken to the mountains in order to evade the military service, the number of highway robbers may increase to very dangerous proportions.

I may cursorily mention here, that out of 3,500 recruits who were to be enlisted in this vilayet, only 1,500 joined the standard. It is reckoned that nearly 1,000 left their homes, and are wandering about, and that as many redeemed themselves by paying 50,000*l.* to the Government.

With reference to my despatch No. 24 of the 4th ultimo, I have the honour to report that five of the principals in the outrage at Ordoo were apprehended and brought here last week to be tried.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—13*th June.*—The Colonel of Police apprehended Mehmed in a village at Surmenah, where his wound had compelled him to take refuge.

A. B.

No. 3.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 4.)

(No. 514.)

Constantinople, June 27, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to Mr. Plunkett's No. 441 of the 2nd instant, a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter on the subject of the quartering of refugee Kurds from Persian villages in Hakkiari.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 26.)

Van, May 24, 1881.

Sir,

WITH reference to the quartering of refugee Kurds from Persia on the villages in Hakkiari, alluded to in my despatch No. 23, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, I have obtained the following information:—

After Sheikh Obeydullah's retreat from Persian territory last autumn, a large number of Kurds fled from Persia to the districts of Shemdina, Gevver, and Elbak, in Hakkiari, adjoining the Persian frontier. My information does not indicate the exact steps taken by the Government in Shemdina and Gevver, but in Elbak a Commission, composed of two members of the Idaré Medjliss of Bashkala, and other persons was sent round the villages of Elbak, which Commission turned the owners out of a certain number of houses in each village, and allotted these houses to the refugee Kurds. Throughout the winter the inhabitants of the villages had to provide food for the refugees and forage for their cattle gratuitously, the Government giving no assistance. Besides this the refugee Kurds committed a good deal of theft and robbery. Many of the Kurds that the villages were thus obliged to support were those who had, on former occasions, ravaged the country, one of the chief of these being a certain Jelad Oglou Kassim Agha, who last year, with 200 horsemen, plundered the Armenian village of Baz, killing the Melek, and made a raid on the Kurdish district of Shivelan, carrying off 1,200 head of sheep and cattle. By a singular perversity of chance or arrangement this man, when he fled from Persia, was quartered on the very village, Baz, that he had plundered last year.

As regards the numbers of the refugees, it is calculated that from 3,000 to 4,000 families were scattered from Shemdina to Elbak.

The people, on whom this mass of refugees were imposed, united—Armenians, Kurds, Nestorians, and Jews—in sending a protest by telegraph both to the Porte and to the Armenian Patriarch in Constantinople. The telegram was sent by the Porte to Bashkala, with a request to be informed what foundation there was for the statements made in it. On this, the men who had signed the telegram were summoned to Bashkala and put in prison. The attempt was first made to induce them to deny having signed the telegram, but this not succeeding, Hajji Mustapha Effendi advised them to say that they had only intended to beg that the repayment of the supplies given during the famine might not be demanded from them, but that the telegram had been written by Ohannes Vartabed, the Armenian Arajnaut, and, as they did not understand Turkish, they had been deceived by him, and had signed the telegram in ignorance of its real purport. At first they refused to make any such admission, but, after Ohannes Vartabed had been arrested and sent to Van, they were at last induced to sign a Mazbata in the sense recommended by Hajji Mustapha Effendi.

I inclose a translation of the telegram sent to the Grand Vizier and to the Patriarch.

I have, &c

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

Telegram sent by the Population of Hakkiari to the Grand Vizier, with copy to the Armenian Patriarch.

(Translation.)

IN order to alleviate the dearth and the terrible famine prevailing in Hakkiari, the English Consul at Van and the Armenian Charitable Committee made last year

inquiries, and finding that we were really in great distress and misery, sent assistance and helped us. We thank also the Imperial Government that it had compassion on us, and distributed wheat to the people suffering from famine. But it was impossible to prevent calamities from coming on the people of this province, and many thousand souls died, and are still dying, from starvation. The proof of this is that the Local Government officially stated that 200,000 Stamboul kilés of corn were necessary for the inhabitants of Hakkiari for seed and sustenance, but without any result, as not a single grain was sent as help; and, besides, the same Local Government now claims the return of the wheat given last year to the people suffering from famine. Thus the people are being distressed. Besides this, the population of Hakkiari for many years has been exposed to oppression, and forty-five villages have, during the last six months only, been plundered and entirely destroyed by Kurds, who then crossed the Persian frontier.

These Kurds were afterwards pursued by the Persian Government, because of their misconduct in that country, and so they finally emigrated to this country. These oppressors and cruel robbers have been received with favour by our Government, and sent to the houses of people suffering from famine to be fed, with their cattle, by them.

Thus we, who are already in a desperate condition, needy and unable to gain our daily bread, are exposed to terror and many sufferings, and have no security for life, honour, and property. Being, therefore, unable to endure any longer this condition, we apply to you in the name of the whole oppressed population, imploring you to do what is fair, and begging your immediate pity.

(Signed by Armenians, Moslems, Jews, and Nestorians).

No. 4.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 515.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Lieutenant Bennet on the subject of the state of affairs at Zeitoun, and in the country east of Marash.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 14.)

Sir, *Marash, June 7, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I visited Zeitoun on the 2nd instant, on my return from Albistan to Marash.

I find there a state of affairs which, so far as the Christians are concerned, must be considered open rebellion. It would seem that since the Commission appointed to inquire into their grievances departed, the Turkish Government have made no attempt to establish law and order; but, as I have previously reported, have allowed things to go anyhow, and, I am sorry to say, with the fact of a sufficient force being established in a defensible barrack just outside the town, I can put no other construction on this than a determination to allow things to reach such a pass that actual butchery must result. It is absurd to say that with 200 men, or even more, available, it would have been impossible to establish a Government; there must be some reason for this apathy, and I strongly suspect the worst construction may be put on it.

The Zeitounlis themselves do not improve on personal acquaintance. I find them to be a semi-barbarous and depraved community, little better than savages, and so ignorant, self-opiniated, and conceited, that it is impossible to do any good with them by argument and persuasion. Strongly convinced that they are a Power of themselves, that the Turkish Government is afraid of them, very excitable, reckless, idle to a degree, and utterly ignorant of what goes on outside their own mountains, they are now in such a state that I can hardly conceive it possible that order can be restored without bloodshed.

This is what I find: I find a Kaïmakam living in the barracks outside the town with the troops, who openly acknowledges that there is no Government, and that he is of no use. He says he cannot arrest murderers and robbers, and that he cannot collect any taxes; and he hints at there being some reason for this state

of things, which he is unable to communicate. There is no work in the Law Courts; no arrests are made. I find an adjutant in command of the troops, whose fingers are itching to be allowed to attack the town, and use his brass mountain-gun on its crowded houses. He has been there for the last two years, and recalls with pleasure his capture of the Bishop of Furnus. He states he has 400 men, when he has only 160, or perhaps 200, counting those on detachment. The reason for this misstatement is not apparent; probably he gave the strength of the whole regiment.

Turning to the Christians, I find an utterly lawless community, split up into parties, quarrelling and fighting amongst each other, with no one to lead them; they are quite deaf to anything a Turk may say, no Moukhtars, or heads of quarters, for the Government to appeal to in its collection of taxes, no Town Council, indescribable filth in the narrow and steep streets, and a parcel of inflammatory and evil-minded priests, who pretend to be animated by a love of justice, but whose hatred of the Moslem yoke is the real cause of their violent language.

The first thing I hear almost, told me by the Kadi with great pleasure, is that ten days ago a caravan was stopped and plundered on the Marash-Kaisarieh road by a party of the Zeitounlis, and a young Kurd killed; that the robbers and murderer are in the town well known, and that the Kaïmakam has spent parts of three days in the Armenian church, trying to persuade the people to give the men up without effect. The house is shown me where, for the last thirteen months, has lived a man who murdered another in the streets of Zeitoun, afraid to venture out, as the friends of the murdered man have sworn to kill him. Blood for blood is the old law they understand, and as there is no Government, blood for blood it must be. The brother of the murdered man and a friend wait upon me, and ask what they are to do. Formerly robbers, they still go about armed to the teeth, revolver, pistol, and gun, gold lace-embroidered garments, and so on. What are they to do? They have waited fourteen months for justice to be done, and now they say they must kill some one on the other side, then there will be a fight, and perhaps forty or fifty killed. I rebuke them sharply for talking like this; but I remember they are not used to civilization, and they are only talking the law they understand and are accustomed to. I can only say as Mr. Mardin (American missionary) told them six months or more ago: "You must wait; I will do what I can to get justice done." Asked why they wore arms, they said they were in danger, having enemies in the town, and wore them by night as well as by day. They said there were about forty on either side who went about like this, but in the event of a fight the whole town would join one side or the other. The revolvers were breech-loaders; a very unusual thing in this country.

I spent some hours with the priests and others in the monastery high up above the town, and did my best to convince them that the course they were pursuing was a suicidal one; they complained that the recommendation of the Commissioners had not been executed, that no Firman had yet been issued, that there was no Government, but they lied to my face over and over again. We went over all their old grievances; the Emlakh (land tax), and Tijaret (tax on earnings), had been very much reduced, the former to about one-half and the latter one-tenth of the old assessment, with which they professed to be satisfied, but acknowledged that only about a quarter of the sum due on these heads had been paid, and I am assured that even this quarter is a gross exaggeration. They say the Government does not try to collect the taxes, and professed their willingness to pay what they considered fair, but the Kaïmakam and zaptiehs agree that attempts have been made to collect the money without avail; that it has been done in a half-hearted way I have no doubt, but the Government profess to be afraid to do more than ask. I told them they ought to have made a point of paying after the great reductions which had been made. Asked why there were no Muktars to assist the Government; they said there were four, and one was pointed out as present. Asked a few minutes later for the names of these men; they said there were none, and that so long as there was no Government no one would accept the office. Coming to the tax on vineyards, they made a great grievance of the fact that the Government had not accepted the recommendation of the Commissioners to make it one and a-half times the Emlakh, instead of a tithe, but had asked for the latter as of old. The Government had offered to strike an average from the last five years, but they would hear of nothing but what the Commission had recommended, and had paid nothing. The sheep and goat tax was another grievance; the 1½ piastres a-head recommended had not been accepted, and they were paying at the usual rate in some cases, but I heard of two villages where they had absolutely refused to pay more than 60 paras (1½ piastres). I must say I can well understand the Government refusing both these innovations.

Coming to the military exemption tax they stoutly denied their own request to serve as soldiers (*vide* Art. 3, p. 83, "Turkey No. 1, 1880)," and said it was a mistranslation; they said positively that they would not serve with the uncertainty of being separated and exposed to illtreatment, but they were willing to pay a reduced exemption tax. They made a naive suggestion to serve all together and garrison Zeitoun instead of Turkish soldiers. All they wanted they said was to see the suggestions of the Commission executed in their entirety, but this one clause they took exception to and denied. Some of them attempted to deny that the arrears of between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 piastres had been remitted, but I am assured they have been.

Asked to emigrate they replied at once, "So we will, if they will give us back our lands on the Gyuksun River, which they took away from us and gave to Circassians, but nowhere else." I do not know the other side of this complaint, it happened fifteen or more years ago, and I believe it to be a just grievance, and one great cause of the existing unhappy state of affairs.

The Commission had recommended that the Government dues on the iron mine should be 1 in 20 of the iron extracted, but no attempt had been made to collect it, and nothing had been paid.

Coming next to the question of harbouring murderers and robbers, and dissensions among themselves, they admitted the disturbed state of the town, but said it was the duty of the Government to preserve order and arrest the malefactors. They denied altogether having given the Government any guarantee of assistance in maintaining public order, yet the Kaïmakam assured me he possessed the original document to this effect, and by Lieutenant Chermside's remarks, pp. 125 and 130, "Turkey No. 1 (1880)," it would seem to be fully established. I tried to show them it was the duty of all loyal subjects to assist the Government in an emergency, but it did no good. The fact is they are afraid, the zaptiehs are of no account, they are laughed at and even illtreated, and all that has been done so far towards the arrest of the murderer has been to send a zaptieh to the house to request him to be kind enough to come down to the prison. If one party went with the zaptieh to arrest him forcibly, there would certainly be a free fight, and the Kaïmakam says he has no power, and that he cannot take the responsibility of sending soldiers to do it. I believe now with a very slight show of force and determination the man might be arrested.

The arms is another grievance; these, it appears, have not been given back; they said that 2,500 arms of all kinds had been taken, about 500 were returned, but the remainder had been either stolen or were in the barrack at Zeitoun. But I cannot believe the figures.

The suggestion of a Christian Assistant-Governor with a Moslem Governor, or *vice versâ*, had not been carried out; there had been three Kaïmakams, all Turks, since the winter of 1879. The present man had been in office seven months.

Among the people present was an Armenian priest from the Sivas Vilayet, who had come down to see if he could get any assistance from the Zeitounlis toward the restoration of lands which had been taken possession of by Circassians in that district.

The police force is 5 Moslems and 11 Christians mounted, and 3 Moslems and 18 Christians foot, for Zeitoun and villages, and there are 5 at a guard house on the Jeihan. They agree that they have no power over the Christians, but that the Moslem villagers are quiet and orderly, and pay their taxes without trouble.

Sad as is this picture of wrong-headedness, obstinacy, and depravity on the part of the Christian population, excuses must be made for them in their ignorance and previous history, a history of grievances and of an age of barbarity; but, wrong as their conduct undoubtedly is, it is as nothing compared with the, to all appearance, wilful misgovernment or anarchy which has been allowed to obtain since the Commission and Saïd Pasha left the district. A slight effort then on the part of the authorities, a slight show of determination to establish a Government, would have quickly brought these people to their senses, and all might now have been quiet and orderly. Instead of which, the position of affairs is so critical that I am convinced it demands the attention of Her Majesty's Government. The last attack on a caravan and murder of a young Kurd will be revenged; and, on my return to Marash, I met a party of Zeitounlis, who, on hearing there were Kurds in the Achyr Dagh, turned back and went another way to avoid them. The fact that a murderer has been in the town for thirteen or fourteen months is very disgraceful; the slain man was, I believe, a violent and bad character, and no doubt the murder was a relic of an old feud, probably on the blood for blood principle; but that he should remain there, a glowing spark,

so near the powder, an open proof that there is no Government, must eventually bring about an explosion. When that explosion occurs, when the people perhaps are engaged in a serious and bloody fight with each other, I can only expect that the mountain gun will be brought forth, and volley after volley poured into the town by the soldiers from their safe and commanding position.

The only bright spot in the whole business is the establishment of a really good school by the Armenian School Board of Constantinople; an excellent school-master and mistress are doing their best to educate the youth of the town, and they have already good progress to show. The Protestants have also established a school; and there are other schools which do little if any good.

I think it is tolerably clear that the present condition of affairs cannot long continue; Zeitoun becoming known as a safe retreat for robbers, the people will not long continue to deserve the credit they have hitherto justly earned for abstaining from their old occupation of highway men and robbers, and already there are signs of a return. The Mutessarif, to whose notice I have brought the case, seems fully aware of what is going on, but replies at once that it was Saïd Pasha's intention to treat these people leniently, to allow them a fair opportunity of improvement; and he says the Government's hands have been tied by other and more serious embarrassments, and that it was impossible to deal more severely with the Zeitounlis on account of the interest taken in their condition by Europe. I tried to convince him that these were idle excuses, that there had been force enough at hand, and that the Turkish Government have only themselves to thank for the present state of affairs, and must take the responsibility.

Being on the spot I imagine it my duty to suggest some way of improvement, but I do so with considerable hesitation, I must confess. The general condition of the sandjak is so unsatisfactory, the lawlessness of the Kurds, the over-taxation, insecurity, injustice on all sides, and the affairs at Zeitoun all requiring attention, that I think the services of the present Mutessarif, Munif Pasha, ought to be dispensed with. An energetic military Governor for the sandjak, with full powers, a knowledge of his responsibility, and a sense of humanity might, I believe, restore order at Zeitoun without serious bloodshed, and without any extra troops being sent. The murderers and robbers now in Zeitoun must be arrested at all costs, as it seems to me, and, as the people will not assist, the Government must do it at the risk of what I believe would prove very feeble opposition.

A Commission should be appointed to inquire into the state of other parts of the sandjak, the over-taxation, conduct of Beys, &c., or, at least, some steps taken to mitigate the growing evil of over-taxation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Lieutenant Bennet to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 15.)

Sir, *Marash, June 7, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I returned to Marash on the 4th instant after an absence of seventeen days on the tour of inspection, which I informed your Excellency I was about to make. I travelled by way of Bazardjik (about 25 miles east of Marash), Pawrelu, Surgu, Geuzhaneh, to Malatia; thence I traversed the mountains to Albistan viâ Dedenikeui, and returned to Marash viâ Zeitoun. As Kiepert's map gives a fair representation of the country east of Marash, and the Zeitoun Caza has been admirably delineated by Lieutenant Chermside, it will be unnecessary for me to furnish a sketch of the route I traversed. From my previous despatch your Excellency will be prepared to receive an unsatisfactory Report, but I certainly had little idea that matters were in such a serious if not critical condition.

Everywhere along my route I received accounts of murders and robberies, feuds, the utter impossibility of obtaining justice, over-taxation, &c. The general cry is "hukumet yok," there is no Government, and the state of Zeitoun is so grave that I feel sure it demands the immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government, but I shall deal with it in a separate despatch. I may here state that I am convinced it is useless attempting to do anything locally, all are corrupt, inefficient, and apathetic, and one is only met by a *non possumus* argument.

The Bazardjik Caza contains a population of Kurds, Turkmen, and Turks, the former, out of an asserted population of 10,000 males, being in a majority. There

has been no Kaïmakam for a month, and I heard the worst reports of the Kadi. The Kurds are split up into various tribes, and in common wander off with their flocks to higher districts towards Albistan, they do but little in the way of agriculture, and refuse to supply soldiers except by force, 300 being still wanted. Disputes and lawlessness among themselves are settled by their own Beys, and they are a constant source of anxiety to travellers. The majority live always in tents.

Many of the villagers are much over-taxed, so much so that many have left the district to avoid the oppression; the arrears amounted to 400,000 piastres for land and income taxes. I heard many accounts of robbery and murder, and the country beyond was reported as stripped; I met scarcely any one on the roads. Utter ignorance is universal, and I was assured there were not four men in the whole caza that could read or write. The Kurds are said to be without religion. There are besides about 500 Circassian houses settled, who are said to be doing fairly well, but the whole district is very unhealthy in summer, much rice being grown on the Bazardjik Plain, and I have no doubt they suffered greatly at first. There are twenty-seven mounted zaptiehs and ten foot.

From Bazardjik I travelled to Pawrelu in two days, passing to the north of the two first lakes and south of the other; the plain in which they are situated is very marshy and unhealthy, but the soil where cultivation is possible is good. The villages are situated a little way up the mountains to avoid flies and fever. On the banks of the Ak Su, in the plain, I found a small party of refugees from Potsov, near Batûm, who had been given land and wished to build a village near it, but were not allowed to do so by the Kurds; I hope I have been able to do something for these unfortunates. At Azapli, a large village north of the Maden Gol, I found a great reduction of numbers of late years on account of excessive taxation; the place is celebrated for its grapes, the vineyards being very extensive.

I then crossed into the Malatia Sandjak to Pawrelu, a nahié of the Behesné Caza. The Mudir informed me that he got no pay, and had been forced to take the office; he had no zaptiehs, but had arrested several robbers with his villagers, but he said it was no use as they were released on paying a small bribe and he should do so no longer. Two Circassians had been slain in his district about two months previously by Albistanlis; they were said to have been robbers. He was quite aware of the state of the Government, but the fault was at Stamboul. The land here is very poor, and the people make a living by taking wood into the larger towns and by their grapes.

Then I passed on to Surgu viâ Erkenek, a large Turkish village in the pass; inhabitants wretchedly poor and ignorant.

At Surgu, a large Turkish village of sixty or seventy houses, there were no complaints of over-taxation (the Malatia Sandjak seemed better than Marash in this respect), but a feeling of insecurity from Kurds and complaints of the depredations of Ashurets in summer. Here, as elsewhere, I found the people unwilling to capture robbers as they were sure to be released, and the trouble they were put to in having to go long distances to prosecute, and the subsequent enmity of the robbers made the leave-them-alone principle the lesser evil. "Ah!" said one old man to me, "in Sultan Abdul Aziz's time things were very different; then we were well off, now it is worse than in the old days of Beys and Aghas, before the Government was established; all our officials are corrupt ('hukumet yok')."

My next halt was at Guezhaneh, a Turkish village high up in the mountains, with very little land suitable for agriculture, and much cold in winter. Here I had many complaints of robberies by Kurds and the impossibility of getting freely about, and yet there are cavalry at the Sultan's farm, four hours off, on the plain below. People here go off to Urfa to get employment in winter.

From Genzhaneh I went down to the Sultan's farm, where I found a Kaïmakam, Nâlifuz Bey, a military man in charge of the farm, with a force of 120 cavalry and a few infantry soldiers. The farm is a long strip on the left bank of the Sultan Su, there being about thirty small villages on it. The land is very poor and irrigation required. The arrangement is that the villagers receive seed and half the product and pay no taxes at present, except the sheep tax. Rice is cultivated, and opium, wheat and rye, mixed and barley. In all this district wheat and rye are grown together. This farm was acquired about fifteen years ago, and some portions of it, I fear, unjustly. I had great complaints from Christians at Malatia that some land, which they valued at over £ T. 5,000 had been forcibly taken from them. The case had been under consideration for twelve years, and repeated orders had been sent from Stamboul for justice to be rendered, but it was impossible to get anything done locally. I recommended the case to Her Majesty's Consul at Diarbekir.

At Malatia I found a Mutessarif in bad health, who evidently cared little what took place in his sandjak so long as he got out of it. He was on the point of leaving for Urfa. He informed me the population consisted of about 50,000 males, of which the majority were Kurds, and 5,000 Armenians, chiefly in the larger towns, and the remainder Turks. At first he was inclined to make little of the lawlessness which existed, but it soon appeared that the majority of the Kurds were out of all control, paid no taxes, and gave no soldiers, this especially in the Aardja Dagh (Alaja) and Kyachta Cazas. They quarrel and fight amongst each other, and sack villages on slight provocation.

Of course, he says, with the soldiers at his disposal he can do nothing, but I am sure with the troops at the farm he might have done a great deal to preserve order in the Aardja Dagh. He said he hoped that now the crisis in Europe is over the Government would be able to put a stop to the present state of affairs. I only remained in Malatia a few hours, but it was quite long enough to learn that everything was as bad as bad could be, and that there was practically no Government in many districts.

Malatia is situated in a plain, backed by mountains on the south; it is a large straggling town of some 5,000 houses, completely enveloped in fruit trees, for which the place is famous. Water flows everywhere, and by the damp and irrigation outside the town the place is very unhealthy. Much opium is grown. Trade comes from Samsoun.

The gendarmerie for the whole sandjak consisted of 82 mounted men and 118 foot, of which 27 mounted and 52 foot are in Malatia itself. There is besides corps they call Police of Twenty, thirteen of which are in Malatia. All are miserably clad, even the cavalry at the farm being in rags, and their pay months in arrear. Robberies were of constant occurrence in Malatia itself.

From Malatia I returned to the farm, and thence up the left bank of the Sultan Su to the large village of Polat. Here I found a well-favoured place on high ground, a broad valley to the south with good soil. Inhabitants Turks. Here they stated they lived in hourly fear of their lives from the Kurds of the Aardja Dagh. There had been eleven of their people killed in the last two years, and they were afraid to go an hour from their village, except in large numbers. The feud began by a quarrel on the road to Malatia between the villagers of Polat and some Kurds; it ended in one man being killed on each side. Since then the Kurds had killed a Polatli whenever they got the chance. In an attack on Polat three Kurds had been killed. No arrests had been made, and the people had no one to look to; they were tired of complaining to the Government. While I was talking, an old man and his wife burst through the throng and cast some garments at my feet, the old man's grief, himself a cripple, and the woman's fierce indignation were terrible to witness.

It appeared that his two only sons had been recently killed, the one accidentally shot by one of the villagers in the leg in mistake for a Kurd, as he entered the village at nightfall about six months ago, the wound proving fatal, and the lad having died three days before my arrival, and the other having been killed by a Kurd from Tumbaklu twenty days previously, while out wood-cutting with some comrades, from whom he had got separated. The clothes of the latter were blood-stained and burnt in the back, showing that the deed had been done at close quarters, either in flight or by surprise. The murderer's name was given as Jingi Hassan, and the murder of a Polatli was said to cause great rejoicing in the village of Tumbaklu.

As an evidence of their fears, I was unable to get a guide to accompany me through the mountains over the pass, and had to find my own way. The pass was exceedingly difficult, but I saw no one till I got the other side, in Albistan territory. After leaving Polat my zaptieh informed me that two of his comrades, who were in the village to collect the sheep and goat tax, had been told to return to Malatia, and tell the Government that they would pay no more taxes until security was afforded. This is the only instance in which I have found Turks insubordinate, and this probably is not meant in earnest.

Coming back to the Marash Sandjak, the first village I stopped at was Dedenikeui (Kurd). The old stories of over-taxation and oppression began at once. Formerly a large village of 150 houses, most of the inhabitants had left for Gornu and Azizieh, to avoid oppression, and the ruined houses proved this.

The Albistan Caza contains a population of about 20,000 males, of these 18,000 are Kurds and Turks, the majority being Kurds; about 1,000 Circassians, 800 Armenians, and 180 new refugees lately settled. The taxes are Emlakh, 180,618; Tijaret, 230,151; military exemption tax, 21,805; tithe average, 800,000; sheep and goats about 200,000;

the total for one year amounting to 1,412,605 piastres. Arrears, extending over a long period, amounted to 700,000 piastres. Last year the Government collected the tithes in kind, and the villagers had to deliver it at the depôts. The district is very cold, and in winter the inhabitants are completely shut up in many places for four or five months by snow. Some of the villagers were able to bring in their tithe; but about half, more remote, and engaged in sowing their crops for next year before winter approached, could not do so. In February the Kaïmakam recommended that as the tithe could not now be brought in, the villagers should pay in money; and he assessed the value, not at the then ruling prices, but at the old rate at the time of the harvest, or about one-third more than the then ruling prices. This the villagers refused to pay, and so troops were sent, who are bullying and oppressing the people, and forcing them to pay at this rate.

There were fifty-three persons in prison: thirteen for small assaults, seven Arabs from Aleppo, sent up here for smoking hash-hash, which I believe is another name for drunk and disorderly and exciting to riot, and the remainder for debt; but the numbers of the latter were constantly changing.

The Yuzbashi, or head of police, seems a good man, and does his best to make his men do their duty and make them respectable; but, like his superior at Marash, he complained greatly of want of assistance from the Kaïmakam, who thwarted his endeavours. I gathered that the Government was very corrupt; that it was useless arresting robbers, and there were now none in prison. The Beys and Aghas do what they like, seize land belonging to others, and intrigue and influence the Courts and Kaïmakam. The Kurd Beys work through the Turkish Beys, coming in at night to avoid recognition, and bribing them to get what they want done. The Kurds give no soldiers, or very few, and only pay taxes by soft words. No Kurd can be arrested except by order of his Bey. The Beys of Albistan work through the Beys of Marash, and so the disgraceful Government is conducted.

There are fifteen foot and thirty mounted men of gendarmerie at Albistan, and their appearance is better than at most places. There is no telegraph, and in winter Albistan is cut off from Marash. The town is full of wood, brought in by Circassians from the mountains to the west, and the work of devastation proceeds unchecked. Eastwards the mountains are already stripped, and between Surgu and Guezhaneh, where forty years ago was an oak forest, nothing is now left but scrub. The chief crops are wheat and barley, and a good deal of grain goes out of the caza; but agriculture is very backward, and great development is possible.

At Karakeuk, eighty, and Tanir, forty houses of Ardaghan refugees have been settled on lands owned by other people. Bribery was the cause, and I fancy without it these poor people, many of whom have been wanderers for two years, can get no attention from the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 5.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 517.)
Constantinople, June 27, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to Mr. Plunkett's No. 440 of the 2nd instant, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem reporting the second visit to that town of Captain de Torcy, late Military Attaché to the French Embassy here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Consul Moore to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 6.)
Jerusalem, June 8, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Captain de Torcy, Military Attaché to the French Embassy at Constantinople, arrived here last week, coming from the Hauran.

This is M. de Torcy's second visit to Jerusalem, his first having been made in the spring of last year, in connection, it was believed, with the French industrial projects, referred to in my Confidential despatch of the 19th May, 1880.

On this occasion he stayed only three or four days at Jerusalem, and left on the 2nd instant for Jaffa on his way to Paris, whither he had been called by telegraph.

So far as yet appears, his proceedings here do not call for remark, having been limited to visiting the numerous French religious, charitable, and educational establishments in Jerusalem and its neighbourhood.

According to the native newspapers, M. de Torcy is travelling in Syria under an Imperial Firman; his object is the restoration of French influence in Syria to what it was under the Empire. He makes plans of the different towns and places he visits, and inquires about their population and present condition; he has occupied himself in founding institutions of public utility, such as a medical school and a hospital, and granting subventions to charity schools at Beyrout, and in erecting schools and other institutions in the Lebanon, and, finally, he has had a hand in the settlement of the Hauran troubles, as to which matter one journal declares there is a mystery which requires to be cleared up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

No. 6.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 520.)
Therapia, June 28, 1881.

My Lord,

ON Wednesday, the 22nd, being the day following my audience, I had the honour of dining with the Sultan. After dinner I had a private interview with His Majesty, at which nobody was present but Sir Alfred Sandison, the First Dragoman of this Embassy, and Munir Bey, His Majesty's Interpreter.

The conversation lasted for nearly two hours, but there is no necessity for recording it at any great length.

The Sultan was evidently very anxious to impress me with his desire to establish cordial relations between himself and Her Majesty's Government. On my part I insisted, as an indispensable preliminary to any really good understanding, on the necessity of introducing financial and administrative reforms into the Turkish Empire, using pretty much the same language as has been adopted by British Ambassadors to the Porte for the last thirty years.

His Majesty observed, in reply, that no one in his Dominions felt more deeply than himself the necessity of reform and change in the system of his Government. "Hitherto," he said, "my attention has been occupied by affairs of which bloodshed and the sacrifice of territory have been the chief characteristics. Now a happier task lies before me, that of devoting all my energies to ameliorating the condition of my subjects."

I rejoined that I was glad to find that such were the intentions of His Majesty; and, touching upon the condition of Armenia, I said that the Greek and Montenegrin questions being now in a way of speedy settlement, I trusted that in accordance with the obligations imposed upon the Turkish Government by the Treaty of Berlin, His Majesty would proceed to ameliorate the position of his Christian subjects in that province. The first measure to be taken, I added, was the selection of some person as Governor whose reputation for probity and administrative ability would be a guarantee to Europe that until adequate reforms in the Provincial Administration could be carried out, the personal rule of the local Governor would be just and beneficent.

His Majesty concluded the interview by assuring me that his views entirely coincided with those which I had expressed; and that he was very grateful for the frank and sympathetic manner in which I had expressed myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 7.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 525.)
Constantinople, July 1, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a confidential despatch from Captain Everett, in which he shows that there is no truth as yet in the report that the Turkish Government is arming the Kurds against the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Captain Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Confidential.)
Erzeroum, June 9, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that your telegram of the 20th ultimo, inquiring whether it was true that the Turks were disarming the Christians and placing arms in the hands of the nomadic Kurds, reached me at Kangha Bazar, a village near Diadin, on the 25th ultimo, being forwarded me by a special messenger from Erzeroum. I telegraphed in reply as follows:—

"Your telegram of 20th. No truth in report. Kurds have been armed since war. Christians seldom possess any. The Armenian Bishop has told me that Turks at Erzeroum were being supplied secretly with arms, but I do not believe it."

Your Excellency is probably aware that, during the last war with Russia, the Kurds became possessed of a large number of rifles, either supplied by the Turkish Government, or carried off after the actions. These weapons still remain in their hands, a source of terror to the Christian inhabitants, and possibly of anxiety to the Government, which is, nevertheless, too weak or too apathetic to demand their surrender.

It would probably be inaccurate to say positively that the Christians do not possess arms, but they are not supposed to, and if they do, certainly keep them well out of sight. The authorities having had reason last year to suspect that arms were being transported from Russia into certain Christian villages in the Sandjak of Bayazid, the Mutessarif caused a search to be made in the autumn, but it does not appear that any were found. It must not, however, be supposed that they do not exist. Many Christians, to my knowledge, bought arms during last winter, ostensibly for self-defence, fearing a movement this spring on the part of the Kurds.

As I have already mentioned in my telegram, I do not share the suspicions of Mgr. Ormanian, that arms are being secretly placed in the hands of the Turks in this city; but the idea may have been reported to Constantinople, and an exaggerated statement have got about. Since telegraphing, I have heard it stated by Armenians that the arms and ammunition which, from time to time, are being forwarded to Van for the use of the troops are in reality destined for the Kurds. I can offer no opinion as to the truth of this accusation, but it may have been the foundation of the report which reached your Excellency. Curiously enough, many of the Kurds entertain the belief that England is secretly assisting Sheikh Obeidullah both with arms and money. I was first informed of this fact by the Dragoman of Colonel Norton, of the Gendarmerie, who passed through here a few days before I left for Bayazid. He assured me that this idea had so taken hold of the Hassananli and Zinorli tribes, who inhabit the southern portion of this vilayet, that an Englishman might travel among them unescorted with perfect safety. I have since heard the same story from a Turkish official in the Bayazid Sandjak, but it was not mentioned to me by any of the Kurds themselves.

Your Excellency may rest assured that, should any attempt be made on the part of the Turkish Government to arm the Kurds against the Christians, it shall be immediately notified to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. EVERETT.

No. 8.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 526.)
Constantinople, July 1, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Warlow respecting some refugee Settlements in his district which he has visited recently.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 9.)
Therapia, June 28, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following notes of a visit which I have lately made to the refugee Settlements on the Peninsula between the Bay of Moudania and the Gulf of Ismid:—

2. To give some idea as to the position of the localities mentioned, I note at the head of each paragraph the nearest place to be found in Kiepert's map.

3. *Fistikle* (*Vilayet of Khudavendikyar*).—In the mountains, about 6 miles north-east of this place, are located eighty Georgian and Lazi families who emigrated from Batoum last autumn, were kept during the winter at Gemlik, and sent here early in this year; the situation allotted to them (2,000 feet above sea level) is very healthy and, in every respect, good, hill sides covered with pine and fir, a fertile valley which requires but little clearing, good water, and easy communication with the sea; fifty or sixty log huts have already been run up and some maize sown; the emigrants seem very industrious, men and women alike being hard at work, but they have only the rudest tools, no ploughs, no oxen, and very little seed, the Turkish authorities having given them nothing except land and promises; the relief funds being at my disposal, I bought for them 90 bushels of maize seed, which was very thankfully received.

4. *Jalowa* (*Ismid Sandjak*).—In villages about 5 or 6 miles to the north-west are collected 100 Lazi families who arrived direct from Batoum in January; land has been allotted to them in the mountains, but has not yet been occupied; it will therefore be impossible to raise any crop this season, and the rations now supplied by Government (150 drachms of maize or millet for each adult, and 75 drachms for each child) will have to be continued for a year; even if wheat should be supplied for autumn sowing, the crop will not be gathered until next spring; as yet these emigrants have neither ploughs, cattle, nor seed.

5. *Serailikoi* (*Ismid Sandjak*).—In the village itself 40 or 50 families are still remaining, while about 120 families are settling down in the places noted below:—

Beg Oglou, in mountains 6 miles to south-south-east; Koukjè Agaj, in mountains 6 miles to south-east; Beuchkè, in mountains 6½ miles to south-east; Deuchèmè, 2½ miles east of Beuchkè.

These people, nearly all Georgians, belong to the lot that were brought from Batoum to Ismid, where they were found in a most miserable condition, and relieved by Mr. St. John, the Secretary of Embassy, in September last; during the winter they suffered terribly from disease and want, and many died; the survivors are now receiving the same rations, and are in precisely the same condition as the people near Jalowa; the land which has been given them is all on hill sides, covered with forest trees and a dense undergrowth which cannot be cleared without much labour; only a few acres at each place are as yet under cultivation, and the maize crop, even if good, will supply food sufficient for only four or five months.

6. Up to this time the behaviour of all these emigrants, both Georgians and Lazis, has been excellent, and they are on very good terms with the country people, but this state of things cannot be expected to last if their wants are not attended to.

7. Since my arrival at Therapia I have given an account of what I saw to his

Excellency Riza Bey, President of the Refugee Commission, and begged him, if possible, to provide wheat for autumn sowing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 9.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 466.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 8, 1881.*

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. Consul Henderson containing observations respecting the relative positions of the Catholicates of Sis and Etchmiadzin, upon which subject Colonel Wilson drew up a Memorandum, which was forwarded in Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 383 of the 15th May, and which was sent to Mr. Henderson for his opinion.*

I should be glad if your Excellency will take the question into consideration and favour me with your views thereon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 10.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 523.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 29, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Biliotti reporting the trial and condemnation of Rushdi Pasha, late Mutessarif of Rizeh, to three years' seclusion and six years' suspension of civil rights.

Mr. Biliotti points out that this is the first time that a functionary has been brought to account for the acts of his administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Consul Biliotti to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Trebizond, June 18, 1881.*

THE public trial, in the Idaré Medjliss, of Rushdi Pasha, the Mutessarif of Rizeh, to whom I referred in my despatches No. 64 of the 27th December and No. 27 of the 16th May last, has excited great interest in this vilayet, it being the first time that a functionary has been brought to account for the acts of his administration.

Rushdi Pasha, a native of this town, is known to every one here as being a venal intriguer. When, several years since, he returned here as an Effendi, after having studied at Constantinople, he possessed nothing in the world. Having managed to enter the service, he now is a rich man, and there is little probability that his salary has enabled him to accumulate money.

On more than one occasion complaints were made against him, but each of these circumstances turned in favour of Rushdi Effendi, who was finally raised to the rank of Pasha and appointed Mutessarif of Gumushané in 1878, some time after serious charges had been brought against him by a former Vali.

His marriage with a Circassian connected with the Palace seems to have added to his luck, and also, it is rumoured, his having placed his house at the disposal of Mahmoud Neddin Pasha during his exile here eight years ago.

The principal counts for which he was arraigned and found guilty were the following:—

1. Liberating from the prison at Hoppa, without trial, six individuals who were charged with felonies.

2. Causing a certain Ali, who had murdered a soldier, to evade justice by availing

* See Part IV, No. 123.

himself of an authorization, issued three weeks after the murder, by the Commander-in-chief of the army at Batoum, to kill deserters who refused to surrender.

3. Neglecting to comply with orders from the Porte concerning the apprehension of the perpetrators of the outrage at Hodourtchour (reference to several despatches from September 1878 to September 1879), and causing the representative of that community to sign a document the contents of which were quite the reverse of the intended purpose.

4. Calling on, and not arresting, a certain Aziz Aga Tchordanogloo, while stringent orders existed for his apprehension and that of sundry members of his family, against whom all the inhabitants of Arkavi, where they reside, were the complaining parties.

5. Accepting, as a present from the Tchordanogloos, a Georgian girl, whom he sent in his turn to some one at Constantinople.

6. Obtaining by compulsory means from the inhabitants a declaration in favour of the same Tchordanogloos (reference to No. 52 of the 29th October last).

7. Falsely accusing Pertew Effendi, the Public Prosecutor at Rizeh, of releasing without trial forty individuals, twenty-eight of whom, it was proved, were set at liberty in due form, or otherwise legally disposed of, and twelve of whom were never incarcerated, though supposed names were entered in the prison registers by order of Rushdi Pasha.

8. Representing a certain Mahsood Bey, of Rizeh, as a very deserving individual, and accusing him of protecting brigands only when he refused to act in concert with him (Rushdi Pasha); and finally

9. Bringing a general accusation of bribery, which he was unable to prove, against the Government at Trebizond.

It being proved to the satisfaction of the Court that Rushdi Pasha had at all times calumniated and persecuted all those who did not act in conformity with his views, and that he had protected felons, and, for venal purposes, had not otherwise performed his public duties, he was condemned to three years' seclusion in a fortress, and to the loss of his civil rights during three additional years. However, the minimum of the penalty fixed by the Ottoman Code is fifteen years' hard labour.

The finding of the Idaré Medjliss was received with the greatest satisfaction by the public at large, as being well deserved by Rushdi Pasha, and as prognosticating a decision on the part of the Porte to visit henceforth with condign punishment all culpable functionaries.

It would be impossible to enter into the details of Rushdi Pasha's craftiness as elicited in the trial. It is only to be hoped that his devices and his good luck will not prevail in the present circumstances, and that the sentence will be confirmed at Constantinople, where he proceeded for the hearing of his case in appeal.

I beg to give a few details with regard to the Georgian girl, of whom mention is made in the course of the present report. In his defence, Rushdi Pasha stated that, far from having received her as a present, he had purchased her for 40*l.*, but on the Vali having pointed out to him that buying slaves was as great an offence, Rushdi Pasha explained in the following sitting that he had paid 40*l.*, not as purchase-money, but for securing the services of the girl in question for ten years. However, he could produce no contract to this effect, nor mention the names of her parents. He confessed that she was only 13 years of age, and was subsequently forwarded by him to Constantinople to some high functionary whose name he refused to give.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 11.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 532.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 5, 1881.*

HAVING had my attention called by Colonel Warlow to the general destitution of the refugee Lazes and Georgians in the neighbourhood of Ismid, I caused a friendly suggestion to be made to Assim Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as to the advisability of providing them with seed.

Assim Pasha replied that the Porte was engaged in providing for their needs, but that under the present circumstances it could not go beyond the means at its disposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 12.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 537.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, July 5, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to Sir C. Wilson by Mr. Assistant Richards, announcing the arrival of Mustapha Pasha, the Refugee Commissioner, and the appearance of locusts near Amasia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Mr. Richards to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

(No. 10.)

Sir, *Sivas, June 9, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Mustapha Pasha, a member of the Refugee Commission at Constantinople, who has recently been appointed Chief Commissioner for the establishment of refugees in the Vilayets of Angora, Sivas, Ma'mouret-el-Aziz (Kharpout), and Diarbekir, arrived here yesterday from Zileh.

I need hardly say, Sir, that his arrival here has excited considerable interest in the town, more especially in the case of those whom his special mission directly affects, viz., the refugees who, roused from a state of deep dejection and despondency, have already begun to cherish the most sanguine expectations of the revolution which Mustapha Pasha will shortly effect in their condition, expectations which I earnestly hope will be realized.

I am not informed as to how long his Excellency intends to stay in this vilayet, but taking into consideration the magnitude of the task which awaits him here, I should imagine that his sojourn will be considerably protracted. During the last few days, in anticipation probably of his coming, a Table has been drawn up by the clerical staff of the local Refugee Commission, showing the number of the refugees now in the vilayet, how many have been permanently established, how many temporarily, and how many are still living as guests in various Moslem villages. I hope by next mail to be able to send you a copy, Sir, of this Table, which, if I am rightly informed as to its contents, gives a very flourishing account of the present state of the refugees, and of the vigorous and successful efforts which have been made to establish them, an account which, I am sorry to say, is not warranted by fact. However, as you, Sir, are shortly coming to Sivas, you will be able to judge for yourself.

I do not know, Sir, whether you are aware of the fact that there is a continual emigration of Christians, mostly Greeks, from this country to Russian territory. I have been more or less cognizant of the fact for some time, applications having been made now and again for passports enabling the bearers to cross the Turkish frontier, which, I need not say, I informed the applicants it was not in my power to give, at the same time trying to dissuade them from leaving the country. But recently the existence of this continual exodus from the vilayet was brought forcibly to my notice by the appearance of a deputation, consisting of four Greeks from the town of Enderes, in the neighbourhood of Kara-hissar, who stated that they represented sixty-four families (all Greek) who wished to cross over into Russian territory, and had applied to the Vali for the necessary permission, which, in reality, he could not, but which they thought he would not, grant. They had in consequence applied to the Consulate. These men informed me that they knew of as many as 250 families, mostly Greek, now residing in Tokat and neighbourhood, who intended very shortly to leave this vilayet for Russian territory, provided, of course, the Turkish Government gave them permission. I was rather astonished at the large numbers mentioned, and inclined to be incredulous, but from what I subsequently heard, I believe that the account given by these men was not much, if at all, exaggerated. I have also since been informed that these so-called Greeks are in reality Lazes, with what truth I cannot say. I inquired of the Vali what course he intended to pursue in this matter, and he said that he had telegraphed to Constantinople for instructions, and could not say whether the Government would permit this emigration or not. He seemed to think that there was no objection to their going, that indeed, rather than they should stay in the country to create general disaffection towards the Government, the sooner they left for Kars the better, that they would be no loss for the country, and much more to the same purpose.

I have recently heard from a reliable source that the locusts which are committing such havoc in the Vilayet of Angora have spread to that of Sivas, having appeared in the Caza of Mejid Euzu, about 35 miles due west of Amasia. I believe there is yet time to destroy them, as, owing to the unusual coldness of the spring weather, they are not yet full-grown; but to do so the promptest measures must be taken, so as to prevent this dreadful scourge from spreading to the rest of the vilayet, although their appearance in this sandjak would be almost, if not quite, without a precedent. Since hearing this news I have not had an opportunity of speaking with the Vali on the subject, but I imagine that he must be aware of the fact, and, if so, will, of course, give the necessary instructions to the Mutessarif of Amasia.

The elections for memberships, &c., in the Bedayet and Istinaff Courts have recently taken place, but the list has not yet been published.

The Istinaff Court has not as yet arrived at any decision on the merits of the Armenian riot case, which was carried to that Court on appeal, contenting itself with quashing the sentence passed by the Bedayet Court. It would seem, moreover, that there is no intention of proceeding with this case, as the President of the Istinaff Court, Abdul Gafir Effendi, has effected an exchange with the President of the Appeal Court at Brousa, and will leave Sivas very shortly for that town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 13.

Mr. Hagopian to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

My Lord, *22, Letterstone Road, Fulham, July 11, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a letter signed by Armenian residents in England, in which they thank Her Majesty's Government for their reassuring words respecting the Armenian question on the occasion of the recent debate in the House of Commons on the Anglo-Turkish Convention, and respectfully submit that the Governor of Armenia should be a European.

Hoping, my Lord, that this letter will prove acceptable to your Lordship, and that its suggestion will receive the generous support of Her Majesty's Government, I have, &c.

(Signed) G. HAGOPIAN.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Armenian Residents in England to Earl Granville.

My Lord, *London, June 27 (Manchester, July 1), 1881.*

WE, Armenian residents in England, have learnt with unbounded satisfaction the reassuring words of Her Majesty's Government respecting the Armenian question at the recent debate on the Anglo-Turkish Convention.

At such a critical juncture, when the Turkish Government is openly persecuting the Armenians by means of novel administrative measures and arbitrary proceedings against the language, literature, and civil and religious immunities of the Armenian nation, and in presence of the most harrowing reports of oppressions and crimes committed by lawless individuals, of dire distress and want, rendered still more serious by the famine, which has made such sad havoc among the poor, and in presence of high taxation pressing so hard on a patient, laborious, but unfortunate population, we deem it a matter of deep consolation and high gratification for Armenians to note in a special manner the Prime Minister's assurance that Lord Dufferin, Her Majesty's present Ambassador at Constantinople, is "to apply his influence and energy in the greatest degree to the settlement of this most important Armenian question." We also note, with hopeful feelings, that Lord Dufferin was, twenty years ago, instrumental to the establishment of the political system of the Lebanon, which we have always represented as a kind of model for the reorganization of the Government of Armenia.

We feel confident, under Providence, that so long as the European concert, so ably brought about by Her Majesty's present Government, remains powerful and harmonious, and continues to exert a firm pressure on the Turkish Government, so long will there be a chance of giving to Armenia a system suited to those local needs which the Treaty of

Berlin mentions, and of securing to her an administrative organization which will guarantee the lives, property, and prosperity of her inhabitants.

At the same time, we desire to express our conviction that, should a Mahommedan instead of a European be appointed at the head of the Government of Armenia, whatever "faculty of administration" he may possess, he will, nevertheless, by virtue of his religion, become the agent of the Mahommedan theocracy, in which event the administration of Armenia could not possess that impartial character which the Great Powers would desire to give it.

Hoping, my Lord, that this point will receive the most careful consideration of Her Majesty's Government, we have, &c.

(Signed) O. ANDREASIAN.
(And 27 others.)

No. 14.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 481.) *Foreign Office, July 12, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 495 of the 21st ultimo, inclosing a note from the Porte, calling attention to the proceedings of Captain Stewart on his journey amongst the nomad tribes of Hama, and I approve your intention to ascertain the facts of the case from Colonel Wilson and Captain Stewart before your Excellency replies to the Porte's note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 15.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 330.) *Constantinople, July 13, 1881.*

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that Minister of Justice has written to Damascus to order release of Protestant teacher Chakir-el-Houri, if he has been acquitted by local Tribunal.

No. 16.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Hagopian.

Foreign Office, July 16, 1881.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, inclosing one addressed to his Lordship by Armenian residents in England.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 17.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 346.) *Constantinople, July 9, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Assistant Richards to Sir C. Wilson on the subject of the refugees in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Mr. Richards to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

(No. 11.) *Sivas, June 23, 1881.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward you a small Table showing the official Return of the number of refugees, mostly from Kars, now in this vilayet, and the method of their distribution.

You will, Sir, be surprised at the considerable difference between the estimate given by me in my despatch No. 10 of the 9th June and that which I am now sending. As I believe I have previously stated, I have had no official relations with Mehmet Ali Effendi, the President of the local Refugee Commission, and have therefore been unable to apply to him for information on the subject; so that the figures which I gave in my last estimate were those supplied to me from, I consider, reliable but, unfortunately, unofficial sources.

As regards the proportion of refugees who are actually established and living either in separate communities of their own or scattered throughout the country in small groups of one or two families, the number given in the official Return, 27,712, is extremely large, and, I hope, warranted by the facts of the case; but I must confess I was very much surprised. In answer to constant inquiries, I have only in a few instances been told of the satisfactory establishment of a few families here and there, and have heard invariably the most bitter complaints, both in the towns and the country. I do not wish to insinuate that the official Return is incorrect, because, without a personal inspection of refugee settlements wherever they may be throughout the province, it would be impossible to adduce any proof in support of such an assertion; but I merely wish to assure you, Sir, that the numbers given in my last despatch (No. 10 of the 9th June) were, I thought at the time, and should still were I not confronted by the official Return, approximately correct.

Mustapha Pasha, who is now here, is making the most strenuous efforts to satisfy the claims of the refugees, and will, I hope, bring his arduous task to a successful conclusion.

I have also the honour to inform you, Sir, that a census is now being taken of the male population, Moslem and Rayah, of this vilayet—it is supposed for fiscal purposes, but of this I am not sure. As regards the Armenian population of this town, I am given 7,150 as the amount of the male and 7,620 as that of the female population. These figures are, I believe, correct, being taken from the Register kept officially in the episcopal residence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

TABULAR Statement showing the Number of Refugees now in the Vilayet of Sivas, the method of their Distribution, &c.

	Refugees who are established and living in Villages or Communities of their own.			Those who are settled, but in groups, scattered throughout the Country.		Those who are still living as Guests in various Villages.		Total.	
	Number.			Number.		Number.		Number.	
	Villages.	Individuals.	Families.	Individuals.	Families.	Individuals.	Families.	Individuals.	Families.
Immigration of 1879-80 . ..	127	20,317	3,813	4,395	803	14,111	2,310	38,825	6,929
,, 1880-81 . ..	16	1,272	318	1,728	432	..	..	3,000	750
Total	143	21,589	4,133	6,123	1,235	14,111	2,310	41,826	7,678

(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS, *Assistant.*

No. 18.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 548. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 9, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Biliotti on the subject of the Christian emigration from Ottoman territory to Russia.

I would venture to call your Lordship's attention to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Biliotti's despatch, in which he gives the reasons which tend to confirm him in his opinion, as expressed in his despatch to Mr. Goschen No. 11 of the 5th March last, copy of which was sent to your Lordship in his Excellency's despatch No. 203 of the 17th of that month, that Russia is preparing for a movement in the Province of Trebizond at no remote period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, June 28, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian Consul at Trebizond lately addressed a "takrir" to the Vali informing him that he intended to dispatch an agent at Gumushané in order to emigrate to Russia, and inviting him to instruct the authorities of that district to facilitate the execution of the work confided to the said agent. Siri Pasha, after having communicated with Constantinople, answered that the direct interference of the Russian authorities in the movements of the emigrants could not begin so long as they were on the Ottoman soil.

The Russian Consul then assumed a different course with regard to emigration. He addressed another "takrir" to the Vali, in which he stated that eighty-five families from Ordoo wishing to depart for Russia, he begged that orders should be forwarded to the local authorities of that district to facilitate and assist them in carrying out their intention.

To this the Governor-General replied that he was unable to comply with his request until he received notice to this effect from the Governor of that district, from whom he had not yet heard on the subject.

It would seem that there is an understanding between the Porte and the Russian Government according to which no impediment is to be thrown in the way of Christians willing to emigrate to Russia. However, many of those who departed for Russia within the last year from the sea-shore districts have returned to their native country, and the remainder long to do so, but are not readmitted in Turkey by the local authorities.

With the exception, perhaps, of a number of Greeks from Gumushané, where the only resource of the inhabitants consists in mineral ores, the working of which is not permitted by the Porte, I believe that all Greeks who may emigrate to Russia, especially from the sea-shore districts, will yield to a strong pressure from Russian agents.

But the Russian Government seem to object to destitute Christians from Turkey being allowed to proceed to Russia, and orders to that effect have been forwarded to the Valis.

I have gathered, however, from a confidential conversation with the Greek Archbishop of Trebizond that the Russian Consul here is vexed against the Greek Archbishop of Gumushané, who is adverse to members of his congregation deserting his episcopal jurisdiction, and that on the Archbishop of Trebizond observing that his colleague of Gumushané was rational in point of personal interest, it was hinted that the position of the Archbishop of Gumushané would be far improved if he were to cross the frontier with his flock.

The general conduct, since his arrival here nearly two months and a-half ago, of M. Belotsercovetz, the Russian Consul, tends to confirm me in the opinion which I expressed in my despatch No. 11 of the 5th March last, that Russia is preparing the ground for a movement in this province at a not remote period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 19.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 549.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 9, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed to Major Trotter by Captain Clayton, respecting the recent earthquake at Van, and the arrival in that town of Sheikh Obeidullah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Van, June 17, 1881.*

MR. BARNUM, the American missionary, having kindly offered me the use of the small steam-boat belonging to the Mission, I went over in her last week to the opposite side of the lake, in order personally to ascertain what damage had been done by the earthquake I reported in my last despatch No. 28 of the 7th instant.

I found that the most serious damage had been done in the Armenian village of Téourt. This village, containing 173 houses, had been almost completely destroyed, not a single house, I think, being uninjured. Ninety-two bodies were taken dead out of the ruins, and 55 persons were hurt besides. Of these 1 has since died; but when I was there, ten days after the earthquake, only 12 serious cases remained. Of the dead, 13 were men over 20 years old, 28 were male children, 16 were women over 20, and 35 were female children. At the same time that Téourt was destroyed, about 200 houses were thrown down or more or less damaged at Akhlat, a large village or aggregate of hamlets containing some 600 houses, and the seat of a Kaïmakam. Here, however, only two lives were lost and a few persons were injured. In the evening of the 9th June a second shock took place, but less violent, only damaging 13 houses in a third village—Spiratzor.

The Bitlis Government, I found, had sent over a Commission consisting of the Alaï Bey and Avidiz Effendi, an Armenian, and a medical man, to give assistance to the injured, and to concert measures for helping the villagers to rebuild their houses. Some tents had also been sent over, and corn, which latter, I understood, was to be loaned to the villagers. Workmen had been pressed from the surrounding villages to aid in the task of rebuilding, and the Commission were making calculations as to the amount of timber that would be required for reconstruction. As I found that considerable distress was existing, and it was doubtful to what extent Government aid would be forthcoming, I gave £ T. 60 from Lady Strangford's funds to be used for obtaining comforts for the still remaining seriously injured, and for supplying the immediate wants of the most distressed. There is a movement being made here to collect subscriptions in aid of the sufferers, so I hope that, except for the sad loss of life, the villagers will be soon enabled to recover their prosperity.

The three villages that have been damaged are all situated in the direct line between the two great extinct volcanoes of the Nimroud Dagh and Sipan Dagh, but nearer to the former, which leads to the conjecture that there may be a line of weakness in the earth's crust between the two mountains. That the greatest damage was done at Téourt, which is the nearest of the villages to the Nimroud Dagh, may have been due to this mountain having been the centre of the disturbance; but it may also have been caused by the fact that it is built immediately on the solid rock of an ancient lava bed. The only observation that I was able to obtain of the direction of the earthquake wave was communicated to me in a village due east of the Nimroud Dagh, and here it was said that the wave came from the south, which would look as if its origin were in the central Kurdistan mountains, not in the Nimroud Dagh; but a single doubtful observation is not enough to found a theory upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 30.)

Van, June 21, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Mushir commanding the 4th Army Corps, Nafyz Pasha, returned to Van on the 11th instant, accompanied by Sheikh Obeidullah. I was absent at the time, visiting the scene of the recent earthquake, but I am informed that the whole Moslem population went out to meet the Sheikh, to kiss his hand and implore his blessing. There is no doubt that the sympathies of the Moslems are with the Sheikh rather than with the Government; and murmuring has been heard that the latter, having encouraged the Sheikh for some time, have now turned against him. He is at present in a sort of honourable captivity in the house of the Mushir, who informed me yesterday that the arrangements would probably be completed for the departure of the Sheikh for Constantinople by the end of the present week.

Of the Sheikh's two sons, the elder, Mehmed Sadik, is said to have gone into Persia at the invitation of the Persian authorities; and the younger, Abd-ul-Kader, is at present lying ill in Shemdina. Nafyz Pasha, however, informed me that he also will be brought here when he is able to travel.

There are a considerable number of Turkish troops now in Hakkiari, and I do not think there is any danger of any serious disturbance among the Kurds, though a good deal of brigandage is going on.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 20.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 550.)

Constantinople, July 9, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Major Trotter, giving a Report on the state of the Bayazid Sandjak and the imprisonment of Ghaziros Effendi.

A copy of Captain Everett's despatch No. 8 of the 29th April last, referred to in this latter despatch, was sent to your Lordship in Mr. Goschen's No. 370 of the 10th May last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 12.)

Erzeroum, June 22, 1881.

Sir,

IN accordance with the intention expressed in my despatch No. 11 of the 11th May, I started on the 12th ultimo for the Sandjak of Bayazid to endeavour to finish the relief work. I took with me as my assistants the Rev. Hagoup Tashjian, Protestant Pastor at Erzeroum, kindly lent me for the occasion by the community, and two teachers, who were placed at my disposal by the missionaries.

On arriving in Alashgert we called on the Kaïmakam, who, evidently unaware that we were armed with orders from the Vali, declared that there was no necessity for any further relief in the district, but he changed his opinion on our presenting our instructions. In Kara-kilissa the Local Government was more candid, confessing to a great need of assistance. Here we opened the Committee, and leaving one of the teachers to proceed with the examination and afterwards to distribute from a store of wheat which had been previously established at Khasdour (Chanzyr), we marched to Diadin. Our second teacher becoming very ill with fever, we were obliged to send him back to Karghabazar, a village in the neighbourhood; fortunately a Government doctor happened to be at Kara-kilissa, and this officer, at my request, kindly came up and looked after him until he was convalescent. At Diadin we opened the Committee, and, appointing a man of Karghabazar as examiner from our side, we went on to Bayazid. Before leaving I made inquiries into the imprisonment of Ghaziros (see

my despatch No. 8 of the 29th April); but I propose to report on this matter separately.

The Bayazid Caza appears to be almost entirely deserted. In the first place, the people suffered terribly from famine, very little relief reaching them; and, secondly, the Persian Kurds came over and plundered from twenty-seven to thirty villages. This act was one of retaliation consequent on an attack made previously by the Mutessarif of Bayazid on some of their tribe (see my despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador, 20th January, 1881). From reliable information, there seems no doubt that, in the spring of last year, the Mutessarif, together with his followers and some cavalry, attacked and plundered some Persian Kurds encamped on the border, but whether on this side or on the other I cannot say, the evidence being conflicting. It is, however, certain that he shared the booty with his men, and that the advance of the Persian Kurds into Turkey was directly due to this action. The people, unable to endure the double scourge, fled, some into Persia, others to Russia, and others westward; nor have they yet returned. Eight villages are standing in ruins in the plain of Bayazid alone; some of these I saw with my own eyes.

The Mutessarif assured me that the condition of the country was very good, and that hardly any of the inhabitants had gone away, but this statement was, to say the least of it, inaccurate. His behaviour to me with reference to the imprisonment of Ghaziros was such as to prevent my co-operating with him according to the instructions I had received from the Vali, and as it would have been a breach of faith on my part to distribute in any other way, I was obliged to leave this caza without giving any relief in it. Had there been anything approaching starvation in the caza, I might have hesitated before acting thus, but no deaths from hunger having occurred this year, and every article of food being very cheap, with bread at from 40 to 50 paras the oke, I felt that, whatever other members of the Committee might do, it certainly would be most imprudent for me to commence work with an official whose attitude at the outset was so hostile, nor could I either permit the matter of Ghaziros to pass unnoticed. I therefore returned to Diadin, where we distributed to twelve villages, three of which were Christian. We were a good deal delayed here by the Acting Kaïmakam, who, on hearing that I had made no distribution in the Bayazid Caza, refused to continue the work until he had received permission from the Mutessarif, and this notwithstanding that he had full instructions from the Vali. He said the Vali's orders were all very well, but the Vali was a long way off, while the Mutessarif was very near, and the latter would probably find some pretext for his dismissal if he was not careful. On receipt of instructions from the Mutessarif he proceeded to act, but not very willingly, and it was only by threatening to leave the place and report him to the Vali that I could get him to move. This obstruction I learnt to be due to the Mutessarif, who, on my leaving Bayazid, sent private instructions to the different Kaïmakams to show the English Consul as little poverty as possible, and generally speaking, to upset his arrangements whenever a favourable opportunity occurred.

On returning to Kara-kilissa I found the work completed, thirty-five villages having been examined and relieved. I therefore passed on to Alashgert and opened the Committee. The people, who are worst off in this caza, are, without doubt, the Djemadanli Kurds, and to them, therefore, I gave the largest proportion of wheat. I also sent to Mr. Cole at Erzeroum to buy them oxen and ploughs, for which they expressed a desire. They number now 100 families, and are quartered in the villages in the valley of the Sharian Su. I visited nearly all of them personally, so can testify to their extreme poverty.

On my return to Erzeroum I bought them more oxen, furnishing them altogether with fifty yoke. There being many people in this caza who have been obliged to sell even their beds through poverty, or through being oppressed for taxes, on the suggestion of Hagoup Effendi, I ordered, on my return here, 100 beds to be made. These will be forwarded to the district immediately, and be distributed by the teacher who has been left down there to finish up the work.

Not feeling justified in giving any more time to this affair, which, indeed, is now practically completed, I have handed over the accounts and lists to my colleagues, and forwarded my resignation to Mr. Milligben.

Although a good deal of poverty still exists in the country, there is no doubt that the famine has entirely passed away. Of this poverty much is to be attributed to the late scarcity, but I feel sure that a great deal of it is due to the vigorous collection of taxes which was made there last year by the Mutessarif of Bayazid. There is no doubt that he caused very many people to sell everything they had; there is no doubt either that, waiting to see where a distribution was made by the Armenian Committee,

he would sometimes cause his officials, accompanied by zaptiehs, to go to that place and take by force from the unfortunate people what they had received. I am at this moment having a translation made of a list prepared by Hohannes, Bishop of Alashgert, which sets forth the losses the Christians have suffered at his hands and at those of others. If it is accurate they must be very great.

But such a document is not needed to discover the pitiable state of the inhabitants and the absence of administration. Never since I have been in the country has brigandage and robbery been carried on to such an extent as at the present time. In some districts the people dare not venture, by day, far from their villages to cultivate ground which they would otherwise take up; by night, ten or a dozen watchers shout throughout its length in order that the rest may sleep in safety. It will show you the utter want of consideration which the authorities have for the people when I mention that at Diadin, although a squadron of cavalry was quartered in the village with nothing whatever to do, no attempt was made to assist the villagers in this onerous duty. The condition of travellers is still worse. Every road is so infested by robbers that it is impossible for them to cross any of the numerous chains of mountains unless in large and well-armed companies. On my journey down, a Persian availed himself of our escort through the pass of Delibaba. Arriving near the other end, he thanked us and rode on, but he had not gone half-a-mile before he was knocked off his horse and left in the road robbed of everything. We managed to get back the main of his goods for him, his horse, and all his money—of which he had a good deal—and with a better knowledge of the country we should probably have captured one of these scoundrels. I referred the matter to the Kaïmakam of the district, but I am not aware that he made the slightest attempt to find out the culprits. On my return journey a messenger of mine, coming from Erzeroum, brought the news to Toprak-Kaleh that eighteen Circassians had robbed a Persian caravan in the same pass. This time the Kaïmakam was obliged to act, but he allowed twenty-four hours to elapse before he set off. Possibly this delay was necessary to collect a sufficient force to cope with the robbers. His normal strength consisted only of a Binbashi (Major) and two zaptiehs, apparently for the whole district; he collected together a number of Kurds, and with them marched up the pass. To his credit be it said, he caught six out of nine who had remained for the chance of further booty. Two of those caught were brothers-in-law of a certain Hadji Yuz Bashi, who was formerly Kaïmakam of Alashgert, and to whom I have referred in my despatch No. 6 of the 31st March. This band, well armed and well mounted, with some of its members masked to avoid recognition, had come up from the neighbourhood of Melasgert, and the circumstances being peculiar, it is supposed that my party was the real object of the expedition. This supposition is not improbable. It is worthy of remark that, on the committal of the robbery, information was immediately given to the nearest Mudir, but this officer did nothing whatever, though within five hours of the residence of the Kaïmakam. If other instances should be necessary to prove the state the country is in, I regret to say they are not wanting. On the 12th instant two men were robbed and killed, one at the stream on the other side of the Deve Boyun, the other in the Haider-Boghaz, both within three hours of Erzeroum. On the 14th, at Panner-Goban, this side of the Kop Dagh, three men were robbed of £T. 50. On the 15th a number of Greeks were stopped this side of Harran, in the Passin, by nine mounted men, who took from them £T. 350; and, on the 16th, a Turk was found dead on the road between Hidja and Ghez, not two hours from the city. Further west it seems that a higher style of brigandage has commenced, and that a girl has been carried off from the village of Tamor, between Baiburt and Gumush-Khaneh, only to be restored with a ransom of £T. 400. It is almost unnecessary to say that this insecurity is most baneful to trade. At this moment there are merchants in Erzeroum who are simply unable to move from the certainty of being robbed and perhaps killed before reaching their journey's end. But it is upon the Persian trade that the effect is most noticeable. Before the war, in the spring, twenty caravans would pass the frontier near Bayazid every month. From information which I gathered at Kizildizza, the quarantine station on the frontier, during the last two months of the present year, three only have passed. In fact, the trade is being driven off the road altogether.

In the Sandjak of Bayazid the greatest robber of all is probably the Mutessarif himself, whose connection with certain robberies of Persian caravans is well known and after him comes Mirza Agha, his friend and ally, Chief of the Haideranli Kurds. While such men are permitted to do as they like, the state of those districts cannot be very secure. Nor will even a better police force do much good, while the system of

catching robbers only to take a bribe and let them go again remains in vogue—a system which appears to be on the increase. But of the causes of robbery in this country I have written enough, and I fear I only fatigue you in repeating that, with European supervision, better-paid officials, an efficient police force, and some administration, it might be eradicated.

The great dearth of wood occasioned by the loss of the Soghanlu forest was prominently brought to my notice both by officials and inhabitants. Notwithstanding the assurance given me by M. Obermüller, late Russian Consul-General here, that Ottoman subjects were permitted to take as much as they pleased on payment of the tax, it certainly is not the case. Not only are they not permitted to take the wood, but they are driven away by the frontier officials, who have sometimes taken from them their oxen.

Many houses in Alashgert and Kara-kilissa are tumbling to pieces, without possibility of repair, nor is there the means of rebuilding any of those ruined during the war. According to the wishes of the people and of the officials, I brought the matter to the notice of the Vali immediately on my return. He assured me that he had written to the Porte three times without receiving any reply. He laid great stress on the fact that when the Soghanlu belonged to Turkey they had always permitted the Russians to cut wood from the forest, and of this I believe there is no doubt. Without repeating here what I have already said on this subject (see my despatch No. 21 of the 7th September, 1880), I would merely remark that an inestimable boon would be conferred on the inhabitants if the required permission was in reality given.

The Communal Mudirs are now appointed throughout the districts, and have turned out to be the failure that was anticipated. The system, as at present applied, is disapproved of both by the officials, who say they are useless, and by the people, who see in them only a fresh power for evil.

I did not find so great an alteration in the political views of the Christians as I had anticipated. They seem to have listened rather more freely than was good for them to Russian, or, more properly speaking, Armeno-Russian, agents, who encouraged revolutionary ideas, and held out hopes of assistance from over the frontier; but the only result having been strong repressive measures on the part of the authorities, causing considerable inconvenience to the inhabitants, no outward sign, at least, is visible of a tendency to rise, but rather a desire to await the action of Europe.

Many people were very anxious to know when the long-promised reforms were to be introduced. I could only point out to them how entirely occupied the Powers had been with the European questions, and, exhorting them to be patient, recommend them in the meanwhile to be careful not to incur the displeasure of the authorities.

The Kurds having received a strong hint from the Government that they are not to join the Sheikh, have remained in their districts, but it is evidently only restraint, coupled with a threat that their property will be confiscated, which holds them back. I visited the tents of Mirza Agha, the Haideranli Chief, and he told me that if the Padishah would only give them permission, they, the Kurds, would conquer Persia by themselves. The Haideranli tribe suffered greatly during the famine, and they complained to me that they had received no aid from any one except from the Mutessarif. They number now 400 families.

The Turkish inhabitants have no doubt grievances enough, but it is difficult to get at them, for they are seldom communicative. They have lately received an order that on no account are they at any time to address petitions to the English Consuls.

After having been brought once again face to face with the evils, I cannot refrain from expressing the hope that the time is really not far off when serious steps may be taken to remedy them. People living in more civilized and better-governed countries are apt to underrate, because they cannot realize, the amount of daily suffering entailed on thousands of people by misrule such as I have indicated in this Report and in the many others which I have addressed to you.

The lot of the inhabitants of these Armenian uplands at best is bad. Placed in an inhospitable climate, exposed in the summer to the rays of a burning sun, with scarce a tree for shelter, and buried every year for four or five months in snow, their existence is not a very happy one. But add to these accidents of climate the existing insecurity of life and property, together with the presence of a set of men who, under the denomination of rulers and administrators, suck the very life-blood from the people, and it is really to be wondered at that any one remains in the country, or, remaining, does not rise against an oppressor whose only thought is how to rob him of his hard-gained earnings.

That the inhabitants do remain, and at present quietly, is probably due to the restraining influence of their Chiefs, who, while preparing for an emergency, still encourage them to hope in the interference of Europe. The questions of Montenegro and Greece being finished, it is now believed that the time for redressing their wrongs has come; but should nothing be done, a change of policy may certainly be expected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June* 24, 1881.

I BEG to inform you that on arriving in the districts I made inquiries into the imprisonment of the Armenian Protestant teacher, Ghaziros Effendi (see my despatch No. 8 of the 29th April).

It appears that the man was apprehended at the village of Karghabazar, together with two Armenians whom he had taken to assist him, and was brought before the Mutessarif of Bayazid at Diadin. There, being informed that he was a prisoner, he was confined in a room and guarded by zaptiehs.

At his examination he told the Mutessarif that he had been sent by the English Consul to examine into the poverty in the districts; but his examiners suggested that the real motives were more likely to be the spreading of the Protestant religion and the increase of British influence.

His papers, consisting of my instructions, two poor-lists, and a petition from the Protestants of Chanzyr to the American missionaries for a teacher, were taken from him, and he was told that he might go to his village, Chanzyr, and remain there till he had received proper authority to work.

The Mutessarif then proceeded to Bayazid, while Ghaziros, instead of being allowed to go free, was taken under escort to Kara-kilissa, where for three days he was put in the common prison. From there he was marched again under escort to Toprak-Kaleh, and again imprisoned. Here he became ill. A man then offered to become bail for him; but the Kaïmakam asking, "Are you, too, a servant of the English?" would not permit it. Finally, he was released on signing a paper that he would not continue the work until he was furnished with proper authority from the Vali. His companions were examined and imprisoned in like manner.

While at Diadin one of them was put in prison with a log of wood chained to his foot. This punishment, being one that is inflicted only on men convicted either of murder or of robbery accompanied with violence, was illegal.

At Bayazid I requested from the Mutessarif some explanation of this conduct. While fully admitting his right to detain and examine the man, I told him that his imprisonment and the confiscation of his papers was an injustice to him and an unfriendly action towards a country which was endeavouring to assist the poverty-stricken inhabitants of His Majesty the Sultan. I begged also that he would return me the papers that had been taken from him.

The Mutessarif answered that he had not imprisoned Ghaziros, but had ordered him to return to his village. The only papers that had been taken from him were the two lists, the others he returned to him, as they did not concern his Government.

Now, both these statements were untrue, for the Kaïmakams of Kara-kilissa and Alashgert themselves acknowledged to me that the Mutessarif wrote letters to them ordering them to re-examine and carry out the law against the men, at the same time reprimanding them for having been so lax in their duties as to have allowed them to go about; and the Cadi of Diadin told me that he himself, after having further examined Ghaziros, forwarded the whole of the papers to the Mutessarif, according to his instructions.

I then asked the Mutessarif if he would kindly give me back the two lists; but this he refused to do, saying that they were statistics of the country, and I had no right to make them.

I told him they were not statistics, but lists of the poor. He, however, refused to restore them. I told him, also, that I thought he might express some regret for this occurrence. But he said he did not see the slightest reason either for regret or apology. In fact, his manner was so discourteous and uncompromising that I felt it

would be not only unwise, but hardly possible, for me to act with him on the terms agreed upon between me and the Vali.

As reported to you in my despatch No. 12, I therefore left the caza without making any distribution.

On my return to Erzeroum I acquainted the Vali with what had occurred. He said he would write at once to make further inquiries, and promised that the papers should be restored. Here the matter rests for the present; but I should be glad to know whether, in the event of the Vali not causing the papers to be returned to me, and failing to express any regret, I may be authorized to insist both upon their restoration and upon an apology.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 21.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 556.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 10, 1881.

WITH reference to Mr. Plunkett's despatch to your Lordship No. 467 of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral on the subject of the locust plague in Angora, and the measures which he suggests for meeting the emergency.

I propose to take an opportunity of calling the attention of the Sublime Porte to the critical character of the emergency referred to by Mr. Gatheral in such a manner as may seem most likely to enlist the sympathies of the Ottoman Government with the suffering population of the provinces, but I cannot help feeling that it would be prudent to show a certain reserve in forcing upon the attention of the Porte subjects which lie so entirely within its own jurisdiction, and that in the long run we are likely to get more done in this way than by constantly putting forth a pretension to supervise the internal administration of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 105.)
My Lord, *Angora, July* 2, 1881.

I BEG to inform your Excellency that in preceding Reports Nos. 99 to 103 it has been my painful duty to give details regarding the locust plague, which has caused so much harm and loss to this district. These destructive swarms have now passed over, taking an easterly direction, and it is now possible to estimate the loss caused by their depredations, and the consequences for the near future.

The Vilayet of Angora is an inland province as large as Ireland, and is divided into four divisions or departments (called sandjaks in Turkish), known respectively as Angora, Yozgat, Kusheir, and Kaisaireh.

The three eastern divisions of Yozgat, Kusheir, and Kaisaireh have escaped the locust visitation, or have suffered comparatively little, the grain having ripened before their arrival, a great portion of it being saved in consequence. The Angora Sandjak contains ten cazas, or districts, and the commercially important towns of Nallukhan, Beibazzan, Ayash, Sivri-Hissar, including the capital, also called Angora, have had their growing harvest, vineyards, vegetable gardens, and melon grounds completely destroyed, or have only saved a very small proportion.

The Angora Sandjak contains a population of 121,381 tax-paying males, the total population being estimated by the authorities at 367,829 souls. This population is mostly Moslem, the proportion of Christians being only one in eight. They are engaged exclusively in cultivating the soil, or as stock-breeders and farmers. Even in ordinary years they raise scarcely enough grain for their own use, and winter fodder for their flocks and herds, so that an entire harvest being destroyed at a blow, as this has been, they find themselves, not only without food and resources for the next thirteen months, but immediately face to face with all the horrors of famine. These districts have not yet fully recovered from the effects of a similar famine in 1873-74, caused by two successive years

of drought; great suffering and loss of life then resulted, and these evils would have been much intensified but for the exertions of a local Committee of British and American residents, and the compassionate kindness of the European public, who supplied that Committee with a fund of over 30,000*l*. The local and central Governments were much blamed on that occasion for neglecting the needful precautions, and I regret to add that, on this occasion also, the most obvious measures for averting the plague have been neglected.

The first arrival of locusts took place late in autumn of 1880, when they did little damage, but deposited in many parts of the district immense quantities of their cocoon-like eggs. Ever since then the writer, along with his Consular colleagues, has lost no opportunity, in season, out of season, officially, semi-officially, and officiously to urge the Vali and the Administrative Council of the province to make some arrangements for collecting and destroying those egg deposits while yet there was time.

As usual, promises were made, elaborate arrangements were drawn up on paper, but neither one nor other were carried into effect, the excuse being that, owing to the military pressure for levies and military supplies for the expected war with Greece, there was neither time nor money left to collect locust eggs.

On the military pressure being relaxed and the locusts emerging from the soil in countless myriads, the local authorities certainly made great efforts, and by means of forced labour and voluntary subscription great numbers were collected and destroyed. It was too late, however, and enough remained to ruin a harvest of wheat and barley, the minimum estimate of which is 37,500 quarters of grain.

The question now remains, what is to be done? Owing to the situation of the province the problem is a very difficult one; the nearest sea-ports are Ismid on the Marmora, 281 miles distant, and Inneboli, on the Black Sea, 268 miles distant; the country is for the most part steep and rocky, the so-called roads are merely mule-tracts, knee-deep with dust in summer, and which winter rain and snow make almost impassable, railways and carriage roads being still a dream of the future, so that if arrangements are to be made for saving life and averting the sorrows of famine by providing reserves of grain there is not an hour to be lost.

At the request of the Vali, I have drawn up and submitted to him a scheme that seemed likely to meet the emergency. This has been referred to a Commission composed of the Notables of the town, and, after much discussion and many modifications, it has been approved, and will shortly be forwarded to the Sublime Porte to await there the sanction or rejection of the central Government.

The outlines of the scheme referred to are as follows:—

	Bushels.
The export of grain being prohibited, the harvest of the sandjak estimated at ⅘ths of that of an ordinary year	1,280,000
Government grain deposits on hand	200,000
The tithe of Yozgat Sandjak	320,000
Yozgat merchants under contract to send for sale to Angora	320,000
The tithe of Kusheir Sandjak	80,000
Kusheir merchants under contract to send for sale to Angora	80,000
Tithe of Sivas Vilayet	450,000
Tithe of Ismid Sandjak	231,000
Total	2,961,586

From this total it is proposed to distribute 6 bushels wheat and 1½ bushels barley to every adult of the population, with an additional tenth for winter and spring sowing. The central Government is accordingly asked to surrender the tithes of Angora, Yozgat, and Kusheir Sandjaks, the tithe of the Sivas Vilayet, and that of Ismid, which forms part of the Constantinople Prefecture.

In the present impecunious state of the Treasury, this is a very heavy sacrifice, as the Maliah has been accustomed for some years past to consign those tithes revenues to the Galata bankers as security for ready money advances. It is true that, on some plea or other, the repayment of these advances has been generally evaded, and the revenues secured by the Local Administrations or remitted direct to the Maliah, but year after year they have formed the basis of some fresh arrangement.

I must inform your Excellency, however, that the suggestion regarding the Sivas and Ismid tithe is an addition made to the original scheme by the Commission here, and seems to the writer utterly impracticable, because, even though enacted, it could never be carried out in the present disorganized state of the country, the idea being that this immense weight of grain should be brought to Angora by means of the forced labour of the Sivas and Ismid populations.

The measure seems to me useless as well as impracticable, but has been added to the

scheme in accordance with the genuine Turkish idea, that to get what one really needs one must ask for more than is required.

Some such scheme, however, seems to me the only means of averting much suffering, misery, and death from starvation, and I would respectfully urge your Excellency, should you think it desirable, to make such representations to the Sublime Porte as will secure the needful sanction to the more important parts of the scheme noted above.

It must be added further, that the Local Government has no idea of giving this grain as an absolute gift. Every one who receives his quota will be required to sign bonds undertaking to repay the Government either in kind or a money equivalent, at the option of the Government, after next year's harvest has been secured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 22.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 567.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 13, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Captain Stewart, reporting a conversation with the Vali of Aleppo on the subject of the Governors of Zeitoun and Marash.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Captain Stewart to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 18. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, June 26, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, that this day I had a conversation with the Vali, Jemil Pasha, with reference to the state of Zeitoun.

I pointed out to him that affairs there were going from bad to worse (*vide* Lieutenant Bennet's despatch No. 14 of the 7th June), that the Kaïmakam was a nonentity, and the Marash Mutessarif, Munif Pasha, an incapable, and that if the Government did not exert itself future trouble would be the result.

His Excellency acknowledged the gravity of the situation, but said he was afraid to act lest his action should be misinterpreted. He acknowledged the incapacity of both the above officials, said he had recommended their dismissal, but without result, and that the Zeitoun Kaïmakam had several times offered to resign.

He went on to say that were they dismissed, the probability was still more incapable officials would be sent, instancing the case of the Antioch Kaïmakam, who was dismissed and replaced the other day by a man but little better than a common labourer, thanks to the influence of the head eunuch of the palace. He said he had lost all hope of any amelioration in the state of public affairs.

He finally agreed to again request that the Mutessarif and Kaïmakam might be removed. Perhaps you may consider the case sufficiently serious to exert your influence in the same direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) O. H. STEWART.

No. 23.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 568.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 13, 1881.*

IN continuation of Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 475 of the 13th ultimo, and with reference to my despatch No. 495 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Stewart, stating that the Mutessarif of Deyr, Ali Pasha, has been dismissed from his post.

I am inclined to agree with the concluding observations in Captain Stewart's despatch in regard to foreign interference with the appointment of Ottoman officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Captain Stewart to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 17.) *Aleppo, June* 26, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Ali Pasha, the Deyr Mutessarif, has been dismissed from his post, and a military man appointed.

In my despatch dated Deyr, the 21st May, I informed you that from the inquiries I had up to then made, I had come to the conclusion that Ali Pasha was probably, as regards intelligence, above the ordinary run of Pashas.

I was more or less confirmed in this opinion by what I subsequently heard in the district between the Euphrates and Tigris. On the other hand, I was told that he was extremely venal.

I heard of his dismissal when on a visit to the Nulli tribe of Arabs (Fellah), and the Sheikh of that tribe appeared pleased at the news, saying that Ali Pasha was bribed by the Shammar Bedouins, and that all the Fellah Arabs would be pleased at his departure.

Ali Pasha himself complains bitterly of the way he has been used by the Government, and of the way in which he has been left without money to pay his officials, zaptiehs, &c. He says if affairs are allowed to continue as they are at present, the officials left unpaid and the military force reduced and rendered immovable, that the Bedouins must again of necessity get the upper hand.

The Vali, on the other side, while acknowledging Ali Pasha's capacity, states that he has robbed and plundered the Government, sent in fictitious returns of the number of soldiers, &c.

Amidst such conflicting evidence I find it impossible, without a formal inquiry, to form an opinion about the rights and wrongs of the case.

If I may be allowed to make a suggestion, I would say that in general it is a mistake to interfere either in recommending or supporting individuals unless the case is an exceptionally clear one, as such interference serves only to create irritation, animosity, jealousy, and makes the influence of a foreign Power depend on the rise and fall of certain officials. Also that under the present system, and with the little real power Governors have, the character of the individual makes but little difference. Should he determine to act uprightly he will undoubtedly fall foul of his Medjliss, and will be intrigued against and removed. About the only course left open to him is to swim with the current.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 24.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 574.) *Therapia, July* 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral, containing information on the financial state of the Angora Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 107.) *Angora, July* 10, 1881.

My Lord,

I BEG to call your Excellency's attention to the extraordinary state of the finances of this province, their condition being one that threatens to put a stop to the system of

Local Government, is a terrible drawback to the prosperity and progress of the people, and a serious obstruction to commerce of all kinds, particularly British.

On the writer's appointment to his present post eight years ago the Angora Vilayet had a well-deserved reputation as a wealthy province, having a large and steady revenue, collected with little trouble from a patient and industrious people; since then, however, all this has been changed, partly, no doubt, owing to such exceptional calamities as famine, drought, locusts, and the constant drain of men to keep up the standing army, but also owing, in no small degree, to the reckless improvidence and mismanagement of the governing class.

During prosperous times the general revenue of the province might be estimated as follows:—

	£
1. Tithes of grain, pulse, opium, yellow-berries, and gum, average yield ..	150,000
2. Agnam or goat and sheep tax, being 9*d.* per head on sheep and common goats and 1*s.* 1*d.* per head on mohair goats, average yield	100,000
3. Vergi, or house and property tax, military service, exemption tax on Christians, average yield	75,000
4. Revenues from forests, pasture lands, indirect contributions on salt, tobacco, silk, stamps, fish, and fermented liquors, average yield	75,000
5. Vaeouf, or revenue from pious foundations, posts, telegraphs, and sundries, average yield	50,000

Of this large revenue fully one-fourth was absorbed by the expenses of local administration, salaries of Governor-General and other officials, the rest remitted direct either to the Exchequer or to the Palace at Constantinople, no part of it being expended on the province itself either for public works, such as roads, bridges or railways (which are the greatest need of the province), or in stimulating agriculture or commerce by means of premiums, prizes, or introduction of new and better methods or machinery.

The present condition of these various branches of revenue is as follows:—The tithes have been partly sold to publicans, partly administered by the local government staff; but the whole tithe system in this province is a mass of jobbery, corruption and abuse that urgently calls for radical reform. And the results to the revenue are deplorable, the amount in cash for last year being 40 per cent. under average, whilst this year it will be less than half.

The goat and sheep tax revenue has of late years been assigned to either the Imperial Ottoman Bank or to army contractors in repayment of short loans, or for special purchases of military clothing and supplies. When assigned in this way this branch of revenue is administered and encashed by resident agents of the parties interested, who are Europeans and generally Englishmen. In their hands this tax proves much more remunerative than in Turkish ones, is encashed in a much shorter time and with far less friction and oppression than under Turkish management; it is a curious and noteworthy fact, that the Turkish grazier would much rather pay what he owes to an English agent than to a Government tax collector.

The vergi, or house and property tax, has been steadily diminishing in yield for the last five years. The rating has been managed in such an extraordinary way that the rich escape altogether, whilst the poor are charged with amounts that they are utterly unable to pay. The accumulation of arrears is therefore enormous, and quite worthless, so that a new and more equitable rating is consequently called for. Though four months overdue, no attempt has been made to collect this tax for the current year; the authorities state quite frankly that they do not see how it is to be got in, and, as no one thinks of volunteering payment of so unjust a tax, the result is an empty treasury. Military service being extremely unpopular, very large sums have been paid to escape the conscription, or, as a bounty, paid to substitutes; but the commanding officers, although instructed to remit the amounts to the War Office, unable to get anything from the local treasury, have appropriated them as pay, or to buy bread and food to keep their men from starving whilst awaiting their marching orders.

The six indirect contributions in Class 4 have been assigned to a Commission of Galata bankers as security for interest on the floating debt; under their energetic control these contributions have nearly doubled in productiveness, whilst the expenses of administration have been greatly reduced; but this satisfactory result does not in any way benefit the Treasury.

It will be seen from the foregoing résumé that the provincial revenue has diminished, and is likely to go on diminishing. The results are truly deplorable. Official salaries are in arrear five to eight months, and these officials take bribes and gratuities openly and avowedly, as they are not ashamed to assert that they are the only means of livelihood left them. Meanwhile, scarcely a week passes but the Treasury or the Palace make some

urgent demand for money for some pressing need. This week, for instance, a categoric demand was made for an immediate remittance of £T. 2,000, a proportion of the expenses of the annual caravan of camels with presents for Mecca. Three days having passed without the remittance being sent a sharp reprimand by telegraph followed, threatening dismissal of all the responsible officials unless the amount were immediately remitted; the result was, that the money was got from local capitalists as a loan, secured on the forthcoming tithes at a rate of interest, I am informed, of 2 per cent. per month.

Besides all this, what is called the havalé system goes on unchecked, that is, a mode by which the Government departments in Constantinople transfer their debts from the capital to the provinces; but this whole system is such a complex and difficult one, that I shall ask permission to treat of it in a separate Report. Let it suffice to say here that the total amount of these havalés or bonds drawn by the Imperial Treasury on the provincial ones, as they pretend to be, is very large, and their payment hopelessly in arrear, although a considerable amount has been paid off at 40 to 60 per cent. discount: the unpaid arrears for the two past financial years are equal to the total estimated revenue, whilst a fresh batch on the revenues of the current year is expected by next post.

It will be seen from the foregoing, that the financial state of this province justifies the description given of it at the outset; but it is useless recording and deploring those evils without pointing out some amelioration or remedy for them; many of them have been already indicated, but they may be summarized as follows:—

1. European inspection and control, with fuller powers given to those responsible for financial reform. The results of the experiment made with the six indirect contributions and the sheep tax clearly indicate that good results would ensue from further extension of the system; and I am quite convinced that the appointment of one or two honest, capable Europeans, with practical knowledge of administering the revenue and expenditure departments of this province, would, in a very few months, bring order out of the present chaos.

2. Some portion of the revenue, however small, would require to be set aside and carefully expended on remunerative public works; the whole commerce of the province languishes, and the population sinks deeper into poverty every year for want of a passable road to Ismid, the nearest seaport.

3. Thorough reform of the tithe system, and a re-valuation of houses and lands on a just and equitable basis; this could be accomplished by a commission of the Notables of the province selected from all communities; the decisions of such a Commission would probably be more practical if they had the assistance and advice of one or two European specialists.

4. Some limit should be put to the perpetual demands of the capital for extraordinary expenses; and if it is impossible to abolish altogether the ruinous havalé system, some measures should be taken to modify and regulate it.

5. A very effective reform in the way of retrenchment could be accomplished by reducing by at least one-third the present staff of employés in the Civil and Military Departments as well as those of Justice and Finance.

I wish to avoid making what might appear to be exaggerated statements, but many of those departments are so crowded with assistants, that it is impossible to get any work done in them; and, as a general rule, there are three officials to do the work that could be easily accomplished by one if he were zealous and competent.

Unless some such measures as those indicated are taken shortly, I can foresee no other result but a steady diminution, not only of revenue but of population, and this naturally fine and productive country will be gradually abandoned by all who have the means or energy to go elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 25.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 575.) *Therapia, July 15, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the 25th ultimo, I addressed a despatch to Mr. Biliotti, the draft of which was approved by you in your despatch No. 427 of the 15th ultimo on the subject of the Protestants of Ordoo.

I inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from him in reference to that communication, together with a further despatch from myself on the same subject.

The approval Mr. Biliotti alludes to is that conveyed to him by Mr. Goschen at your Lordship's request, as stated in your despatch No. 239 of the 31st March last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 36.) *Trebizond, July 5, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 25th ultimo, inclosing another despatch of the same date, containing instructions with regard to my communications with the Turkish authorities in matters concerning Ottoman subjects.

I am happy to say that the line of conduct which I have hitherto followed is in conformity with these instructions, but as my having addressed a note to the Governor-General on the subject of the Protestants at Ordoo may appear as overstepping this line, I beg leave to enter into a few explanatory details.

It has been my invariable habit to personally communicate, in an informal manner, to the Valis all cases worthy of consideration which took place in the vilayet and came to my knowledge. And I must say that, until a few months back, Sirri Pasha, though personally very adverse to all foreign interference in local matters, not only paid attention to my communications, but also begged me himself for further information. It was especially so after my trip in the western districts of this province in autumn last, when the details with which I furnished him enabled him to redress outrages which his subordinates were concealing from him. Such were the cases of torture which the zaptiehs were in the habit to inflict on the unfortunate inhabitants of Tripoli (reference to No. 48 of the 11th October last), and the case of torture to which two Greeks had been subjected by Mussulmans of Gurtun (reference to No. 49 of the 15th October, 1880).

I cite these two examples as most striking, though Sirri Pasha had to investigate many other cases which had been brought to his notice directly by myself, and also by his Government, in consequence of Her Majesty's Embassy having communicated to the Porte my reports on the western districts, a circumstance of which I heard only from Sirri Pasha. He spoke himself to me of cases which he wished to be represented under their true light at Constantinople. All these communications were always interchanged in the most friendly, and I may say intimate, terms.

However, as the Porte, after making inquiries, was doing nothing to alleviate their sufferings, the inhabitants of the districts which I had visited addressed to me petitions, of which I handed copies to the Vali.

I presume that the fact that Ottoman subjects should apply to a foreign Representative gradually awoke suspicions in the mind of Sirri Pasha, who did not conceal from me his being vexed at their so doing.

On one occasion he said he could not understand why Ottoman subjects should not address their petitions to himself; on another, that did he know their names, which I had purposely refrained from giving, he would have had them severely punished; and, on a third occasion, he first refused but at last very reluctantly consented to accept the copy of a petition addressed to myself which I was as usual handing to him.

I may here observe that my communicating to the Governor-General of Trebizond copies of these documents was approved by Earl Granville in despatch No. of the 10th April, 1881, from Her Majesty's Embassy.

When the letter of the Protestants of Ordoo was handed to me, I was too unwell to be able to call personally on the Governor-General; and considering that the case required immediate attention, and fearing that, in the mood in which he was at the time, he might have not given due consideration to a message sent through my Dragoman, I addressed to him the inclosed note.

Your Lordship will observe that I make no formal complaint in this document, which, though written in an official form, was intended by me to convey amicably the information which I had received to Sirri Pasha, who took himself the same view of the case in his answer herewith inclosed in translation, in which, however, he hints

at his not having received instructions from the Porte to accept the interference of foreign Consuls in matters concerning Protestant Ottoman subjects.

However, I beg leave to call your Lordship's special attention to the fact that, though the Protestants at Ordoo were publicly persecuted by the Greeks since nearly a month, it was only on my interfering that Sirri Pasha, who seems to have been unacquainted with the state of things, was enabled to wire orders to the Kaïmakam of that district.

It was in consequence of a conversation which took place a few days after between the Vali and myself that I applied for instructions.

I entered into the foregoing details in order to explain how it came about that, contrary to my habit, I addressed a note to the Governor-General, though I hope I am not mistaken in thinking that an official remonstrance was justifiable in the case of the Protestants at Ordoo.

In fact, during four consecutive weeks they were subjected, on the part of the Greeks, to gross insult and ill-treatment when proceeding to or departing from church, and during these four weeks the local authorities did so little to protect them that the Protestants were at last under the necessity to close their church and school. This I consider to be clearly contrary to the freedom and outward exercise of religion, and consequently an infringement of Treaty engagements, for which the Government alone is responsible, though the persecution may be on the part of a portion of the population professing another creed.

I avail myself of this opportunity to inform your Lordship that, though Sirri Pasha did not apply for instructions, he received, about three weeks ago, a Circular addressed by the Porte to all the Valis, reminding them that the interference of Consuls in local matters was not to be tolerated in any way, and that their communications with them should be limited to the terms of their Firmans, that is, to the protection of the subjects of their respective nations.

This circumstance shall not, naturally, deter me from acting in conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatches of the 25th ultimo whenever an opportunity presents itself for my so doing.

May I be allowed most respectfully to point out that, if I were informed which of my Reports were communicated to the Porte, and, if possible, also by it to the Vali, I would be placed in a more advantageous position than the present one in my dealings with the latter.

Trusting that, all circumstances considered, my proceedings in the case of the Protestants at Ordoo will meet with your Lordship's approbation, I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Consul Biliotti to Sirri Pasha.

Trébizonde, le 19 Avril, 1881.

Excellence,

LE Chef de la Communauté Arméno-Protestante de Trébizonde et un prêcheur de la même religion qui se trouve ici, viennent de recevoir de leurs coreligionnaires à Ordou une lettre qui m'a été communiquée dans laquelle ces derniers les informent que depuis quatres semaines ils sont injuriés, poursuivis à coups de pierres, frappés et menacés avec des armes lorsqu'ils se rendent ou sortent du temple; que les principaux agresseurs sont Fidangouroglou Andréa, son fils Nicola, Hadji Gorgon Hatchika, et les leurs; que Dimanche dernier ils ont été encore attaqués, qu'ils ont réclamé auprès du Gouverneur, dont ils ont reçu le conseil de faire un recours régulier; qu'en attendant ils sont dans la nécessité de ne plus fréquenter l'école ni le temple; et qu'ils demandent aide et protection.

En portant ces faits à la connaissance de votre Excellence, je vous prie de vouloir bien donner par télégraphe les ordres nécessaires pour faire cesser la persécution dont sont l'objet les Protestants d'Ordou et faire punir les coupables.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 25.

Sirri Pasha to Consul Biliotti.

(Translation.) *Trebizond, April* $\frac{6}{20}$, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your "takrir" of the 19th April at the same time as another "takrir" from the American Consulate on the same subject. Having no instructions from the Porte to accept the interference of the British and American Consulates in matters concerning Protestant Ottoman subjects, I beg to inform you that I have considered your "takrir" as a non-official but a friendly communication, in consequence of which I have wired the necessary instructions to the Kaïmakam of Ordoo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SIRRI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 25.

The Earl of Dufferin to Consul Biliotti.

Therapia, July 15, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 36 of the 5th instant on the subject of your communications with the local authorities with reference to Ottoman subjects in general and especially to the Protestants of Ordoo.

I quite agree with you in thinking that our Consuls ought to be informed when complaints against the local authorities forwarded by them to this Embassy are pressed upon the consideration of the Sublime Porte, and I have arranged that in future these notices shall be given.

Your proceedings in the case of the Protestants of Ordoo seem to have been in the spirit of the instructions you subsequently received.

I have full confidence in your tact and judgment, and have no doubt that by friendly representations to the Vali you will often be able to prevent the infliction of injustice where an official remonstrance would be met by a rebuff which it would be difficult to prevent.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 26.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 576.) *Constantinople, July 17*, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 134 of the 21st February last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Clayton, giving further information on the subject of the ill-treatment of the Nestorians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 31.) *Van, June 27*, 1881.

Sir,

AS the Kurdish question appears to be quietly settled for the present by the arrival of Sheikh Obeidullah in Van *en route* for Constantinople, I hope to be able to start shortly on the tour through the Bitlis Vilayet, previously sanctioned by Her Majesty's Ambassador. It may, therefore, not be untimely to give, before starting, a general idea of the present state of things in this neighbourhood.

There evidently still remains a considerable distrust of the Christians on the part of the Government. I have previously reported, in my despatch No. 13, Confidential, of the

15th March, 1881, the closing of the Armenian Club, and about a month ago an order was promulgated forbidding meetings and speeches. Of this order I inclose a translation. Another order has also been recently issued by the Department of Justice at Constantinople to the effect that whenever any judgment is given by the heads of Rayah communities in cases between Rayahs, notice of it should be given to the Ejra Memour of the Government, who would carry it out. This is not in itself a great matter, but the Armenians fear that it may be the beginning of an attempt to curtail the privileges which they at present enjoy.

In addition to the distrust of the Christians by the Government, various indications have made me aware that there exists a very bitter feeling against the Christians among the Moslems generally, though they dare not openly show it except by occasional outbursts of opprobrious language in the bazaar or elsewhere when they think it will pass unnoticed.

On the other hand, there has been a relaxation from the strictness in taking away arms from Christians when found carrying them which prevailed two or three months ago. Even then, what was ostensibly done was merely the enforcement of the order that no one, whether Moslem or Christian, should carry arms. But practically the order was only enforced against Christians, Moslems not being interfered with. Now, however, the usual state of indifference seems to have again set in. It is, however, to be understood that in the country the Armenian peasantry are, as a rule, entirely unarmed, while the Turks and Kurds always carry weapons. The Armenians, therefore, are quite defenceless against wrong.

The Armenians are very discontented with the present state of things. No doubt they have reason for this, for the Government and Moslems generally unquestionably look upon them with no favourable eye, and are doing their best to keep them down and give them no chance of advancing. At the same time, it must be acknowledged that the Armenians have not always acted very judiciously. Regardless of the fact that it is their interest to allay the suspicions of the Turks, so that difficulties may not be thrown in the way of the desired reforms, they have nevertheless taken every opportunity of flaunting their nationality in meetings, speeches, and songs. There was no actual disloyalty in most cases in this, but it was unreasonable, when the Government was in great difficulties, and therefore suspicious, and in some cases language was certainly used giving some real grounds for distrust. The consequence has been the order forbidding meetings and speeches.

The country generally is fairly quiet, though in some parts the Kurds are troublesome. When I was visiting the scene of the earthquake on the west side of the lake great complaints were brought to me that mounted parties of ten to twelve Circassians and Kurds were roaming about the country, carrying off cattle, sheep, and draught oxen, and robbing travellers. The corpse of an unknown murdered man had been found on the road a few days before my arrival. Agriculture was therefore being carried on under difficulties and apprehensions, but the Government was doing absolutely nothing to restore security. I have written to the Vali of Bitlis, calling his attention to the subject.

In Shaddakh also a certain Mehmed Agha has been levying black-mail on the Christian villages. He is a notorious oppressor, and I have urged the Government over and over again to take steps to prevent his misdoings. But he has powerful protectors, and although continual promises have been made, nothing has been done, and he remains a member of the Idaré Medjliss at Shaddakh. The Vali told me the day before yesterday, when I again spoke to him on the subject, that he had sent a detachment of cavalry to examine into the matter and arrest Mehmed Agha, but that the officer commanding the party had sent word that there was no truth in the complaints, and that the villagers refused to give information as to the Agha's whereabouts. The fact is that their complaints have been so long unheeded that they have more fear of the Agha than trust in the protection of the Government.

I have heard to-day from Boulanyk that soldiers have been sent there to collect taxes and supplies for the troops, and are behaving very brutally, beating and otherwise ill-treating the peasantry if they do not immediately satisfy their demands. In one case a Mulazim is said to have thrown two men into the fire to make them pay money he demanded. I shall inquire into this when I am in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

From Hakkiari also come some complaints. Bands of Kurds cross the Persian frontier and rob travellers and plunder villagers, and the local Kurds also plunder when opportunity offers. A short time ago a train of mules, sent by Mar Shimoun, the Nestorian Patriarch, to obtain supplies, were carried off by Kurds on their way back, and have not yet been recovered. Mr. Wahl writes to me from Kochannes that the Nestorian villages are being ruined by Kurds and zaptiehs. The following is an extract from a letter

of his dated the 1st June, 1881:—"As village after village of the poor Nestorians was getting ruined by the Kurds and zaptiehs, I ventured a few weeks ago a private interview with the Kaimakam of Julamerg. He opened me his whole heart and said: 'My dear Sir, I am fully aware of the truthfulness of your complaint, but I am powerless; whenever I try to call the guilty parties (Kurds or zaptiehs) to account, they go to Bashkalah with presents (a horse, a mule, &c.) for the Pasha, and return with orders that I should defer matters to the arrival of the new Vali expected at Julamerg.'" I may mention that no information has yet been received of the new Vali of Hakkiari being on his way.

The policy of the Government at the present time is to deny altogether or make light of the things complained of by the Christians. Whenever I call attention to the misconduct of Kurds, troops, or zaptiehs, the answer invariably is that there certainly have been a few cases of robbery or misconduct, but comparatively of a trifling character and such as must always occur in so wild a country, but that these have been multiplied and exaggerated by the Christians in order to keep their case before the eyes of Europe. If this does not satisfy me, promises are made, a form of investigation is gone through, and a report is sent to the Porte, saying that the complaints of the Christians are very much exaggerated, in order that an answer may be given to any inquiry on the part of the Ambassador. I know for certain that there is a determination on the part of the Government to keep the European Powers in ignorance of the real state of things if possible. I have previously had to make the same remark on more than one occasion. (Despatches No. 26 of the 20th August, 1880, No. 27 of the 7th September, 1880, and No. 23, Confidential, of the 3rd May, 1881.)

On the whole, therefore, though I do not think that the state of the country grows any worse, and in the cities the condition of the Christians is acknowledged to be considerably better than it was a few years ago, yet I am bound to say that I do not think the temper of the authorities has radically improved, though there is more outward circumspection, while in the country districts, which are withdrawn from the immediate eye of European Consuls, there is certainly no such amelioration as could be considered as even the most moderate instalment of the promised reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

The Vali of Van to the Armenian Bishop of Van.

26 *Djemazil-evvel*, 1298 (*May* 14, 1881).

(Translation.)

IT having been reported that some people hold meetings in certain Armenian houses, in the schools and in other places, and deliver speeches, the Mutdai Umumu has asked me in writing to forward to you a copy of the document issued by the Justice Department, forbidding such meetings and speeches, and giving warning that henceforth such people will be punished according to the law. I therefore write this letter to request that the teachers and other persons whom it concerns may be informed of this, in order that they may conduct themselves according to the august order, and that speeches of that kind may be avoided. It is also requested that the receipt of this may acknowledged.

(Signed) HASSAN,
Governor-General of Van.

Document from the Justice Department, inclosed in the above.

(Translation.)

It has been reported that in some places certain persons visiting the Armenian houses invite men and women to schools where meetings are held, speeches are delivered, and subscriptions are collected on behalf of the people suffering from famine in Armenia. Though it is lawful to hold meetings for religious purposes, for instance, for the election of members of the Church Commission, &c., yet this permission is limited according to the law. It being therefore necessary to put a stop to the action of such people as, without the permission and initiative of the Government, publish advertisements, hold meetings, and deliver speeches in schools, which places should be devoted to education, orders have been given to the Police Department for this purpose. Persons, therefore, who are found occupied with such matters will henceforth be considered as under suspicion, and will be subject to the penalties of the law after trial. This august order has been communicated

to all parts of the country. Sufficient printed copies have also been forwarded. This letter has been written to make communication of this to the vilayet and to the Courts, with the request that it may be put into execution according to the august order.

No. 27.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 533.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 18, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Trotter, containing his remarks on some statistical Tables that were communicated to me by the Armenian Patriarch.

As your Lordship will see, Major Trotter has had a copy made of those portions which refer to his Consular district, and, in accordance with his suggestion, I have this day sent copies of those papers that relate to the Vilayets of Sivas and Aleppo to Sir C. Wilson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 27.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 11, 1881.*

I VENTURE to submit a few remarks on the statistical Tables recently submitted by the Armenian Patriarch to your Excellency.

According to a Memorandum by Mr. Sartoris which accompanies these statistics, the latter have been drawn up with the view of disproving the statement of the Porte that the Armenians in the frontier provinces, including Sivas, form only 17 per cent. of the whole population. The Patriarchate claims that the Armenians really form more than one-half.

I went very fully into the subject of the population of the frontier provinces whilst at Constantinople last autumn, and, I think, clearly showed that whatever value attached to the Patriarchal estimates of the Armenian populations, no reliance whatever could be placed in the figures they had already given for the Mahommedan population.*

The general results to which I came were that in the Provinces of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis the Christian population (including 60,000 Nestorians) is, roughly speaking, about one-third of the whole, the remaining two-thirds being Moslems. Of the latter, the large majority are Kurds, so that the Armenians, who form rather more than one-fourth of the whole population, although considerably outnumbering the Turks, are, in their turn, outnumbered by the Kurds.

If we take the whole of the Kurdistan Consular district (i.e., the Vilayets of Diarbekir and Kharput, in addition to the three first named), I estimate that the Christians form about two-sevenths of the entire population.

Appended is a Table (A), which I drew up last September to accompany a Memorandum on the different races inhabiting my Consular district. The Memorandum was printed in a Blue Book, but through an accident the Table was omitted. I believe that, as regards the Christians, the numbers given are fairly reliable, both relatively and absolutely.

As regards the Moslems, I believe the total number to be not very far from the truth, but as the Ottoman authorities always studiously avoid separating the Mahommedan subjects into classes, it is very difficult to form a correct estimate of the numbers forming the different sub-divisions, and the relative numbers given must be considered as only a very rough estimate.

In part confirmation of my views, I would beg to draw your Excellency's attention to the article, "Numerical Proportion of Armenians to Moslems," in Captain Chermside's despatch No. 14 of the 9th August, 1880.

I have carefully examined the papers recently submitted by the Patriarch, and have not found anything therein to make me alter my opinion as to the relative number of Christians and Moslems. The Tables show signs of having been carefully got up, and are probably nearer the truth than any statistics hitherto supplied from the Patriarchate; in fact, the numbers given for the purely Armenian population are more detailed and probably more correct than any we have.

* *Vide* my despatches No. 37 of the 7th September, and No. 38 of the 14th September.

I note that in the new statistics the Armenian population given for the frontier vilayets is as follows:—

Erzeroum	123,262
Bitlis	130,460
Van	133,859
Kharput	146,921
	534,442
Adding for Armenian population—	
Town of Erzinjian	10,000
Town of Deyrsim	4,000
Vilayet of Diarbekir	88,800
We have a total of	637,252

which agrees very satisfactorily with the estimate of 612,000 given for the Armenians in Table (A), and is probably not far from the truth.

The new statistics of Mahommedan population, even if correct as far as they go, would be valueless for purposes of comparison, as large districts of almost purely Mahommedan population are altogether omitted; the Deyrsim Mountains, for instance, which contain a Mahommedan population of at least 50,000 souls. In the Bitlis Vilayet, again, the official figures give a Moslem population of 240,000, whereas the new Patriarchate figures show 28,571, it being admitted that "villages exclusively inhabited by Kurds are not noted;" but this, of course, renders the Tables useless for comparison.

I also note that in the estimates of the Kurdish population in the Province of Van the total number given is 88,147, of whom 48,650 are nomads, and the remaining 39,397 sedentary; but in a recent Report from Captain Clayton, while the nomads are given at nearly the same figure (the lists of tribes being obviously taken from the same source), the sedentary Kurds are put down at 105,818.

The papers being thus incomplete, it would, I think, be useless sending them home in their present shape. I have prepared a short abstract (B), which might be sent home if thought desirable.

The original papers (returned herewith), although useless at the Foreign Office, might be of much use in the hands of Her Majesty's Consular Representatives in the districts treated of. I have had a copy made of those portions which refer to my Consular district, to assist in any subsequent inquiries that may be made on the same subject by Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls or by myself.

I would venture to suggest that copies of those papers relating to the Sivas and Aleppo Vilayets (Divrig, Gurine, Zeitoun, and Hadjin) be sent to Sir Charles Wilson, Her Majesty's Consul-General for Anatolia.

I have, &c.
Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

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* The so-called Armeno-Moslems are excluded.

† Plus 83,836 Nestorians.

Inclosure 2 in No. 27.

Table (A).—Showing Sub-divisions and other Details of the different Races in the Kurdistan Consulate.

Races.	Sub-division.	Approximate Number.	Religions.	Languages spoken.
Armenians	.. ..	591,000	Orthodox (Gregorian) .. Roman Catholic. Protestant.	The immense majority of the Armenians speak Armenian as their native tongue; but the Armenian Catholics about Mardin all speak Arabic; while Armenians in many out-of-the-way places speak nothing but Kurdish.
Syrians	1. Nestorians or Chaldeans.	70,000	Nestorian .. .. Chaldæan (Roman Catholic).	The Nestorians speak a dialect of modern Syriac; the Jacobites about Midyat speak Turani dialect of Syriac; whilst many Jacobite Christians and Chaldæans speak nothing but Arabic or Kurdish, according to the language spoken by their nearest neighbours.
	2. Syrians	20,000	Old Syrian (Jacobite) .. Syrian (Roman Catholic). Protestant (1,000).	
Greeks	.. ..	12,000	Orthodox (Roman Catholic).	Most of the Greeks speak a dialect of modern Greek; but in some out-of-the way places they speak nothing but Armenian; in others, Arabic, Turkish, and Kurdish.
Jews	.. ..	4,000	.. ..	Hebrew, Arabic, and other languages, according to locality.
Turks	.. ..	500,000	Orthodox (Sunni) ..	Turkish.
Kurds	Kurmanji	320,000	Orthodox	Kurdish (Kurmanji).
	Zaza	168,000	Unorthodox	,, (Zaza).
Kizilbash Turks and Turcomans	.. ..	57,000	Unorthodox .. .. Alleis	Turkish.
Arabs	.. ..	57,000	Orthodox and unorthodox.	Arabic.
Arab tribes	.. ..	9,000	Unorthodox	Arabic and Kurdish.
Turk Ironon	.. ..	11,000	.. .. ..	Persio-Turkish.
Circassians	Circassians	6,000	Orthodox	Circassian.
	Tchetchlus	18,000		Tchetchen.
Lazis	.. ..	12,000	.. ..	..
Yezidis	.. ..	18,000	Devil-worshippers ..	Kurdish.
Gipsies	.. ..	4,000	Various	Armenian and Kurdish.

Inclosure 3 in No. 27.

Table (B).—Abstract of Statistical Information (as to Population) contained in Papers recently submitted by the Armenian Patriarch to the Earl of Dufferin.

ERZEROUM. Erzeroum Sandjak.

	Armenians.	Armeno-Catholics.	Armeno-Protestants.	Greeks.	Armeno-Moslems.	Yezidis.	Persians.	Turks.	Kurds.	K. Kurds.	Circassians.
Erzeroum	9,744	771	103	418	7	..	..	20,244	350	425	300
Erzeroum Plain, and Marmen and Thortoum	18,625	727	..	18	1,825	..	..	31,389	1,905	3,172	169
Ishir and Gerkin	3,396	6,120	..	50	2,716	..	..	10,925	260	..	..
Upper and Lower Pasin	10,387	218	57	..	..	..	..	11,265	4,390	..	141
Khonous, Tekmon, and Shoushin ..	11,731	..	272	..	120	..	..	970	12,280	2,040	82
Keghi and Gôynek	12,505	..	227	358	..	..	..	2,350	10,570	8,911	510
Terdjin and Mamakhatoun	9,278	..	..	471	..	..	..	5,950	1,383	6,610	..
	84,466	7,836	659	1,315	7,668	..	..	89,319	31,738	21,158	1,202
Districts of Erzingian and Kemakh [1] ..	5,372	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,150	50	..	..
Bayazid Sandjak	10,913	1,120	..	..	..	2,700	730	1,650	27,581	..	..
Kharput Sandjak	11,246	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,804 [2]	..	..	..
Total	113,597	8,956	659	1,315	7,668	2,700	730	98,923	59,388	21,158	1,202

Total Christian population, 121,517; total Moslem population, 102,047.

(1) No figures for town of Erzingian; no figures for the Dersim; no figures for purely Mahommedan villages.
(2) No figures of Mahommedan population given for town of Belkurt, and for nine villages.

BITLIS.

Names of Sandjaks and Cazas.	Armenians.	Turks.	Kurds.
SANDJAK OF BITLIS.			
Bitlis Caza.			
Including Guzeldéré, Rabwn, and Medgan	22,822	..	1,611
SANDJAK OF MOUSH.			
Moush town	6,005	8,550	..
,, plain	39,726	..	2,10
Lower Boulanyk	6,515	..	1,895
Upper ,, ...	15,800	..	815
Akhlat	6,856	..	180
Managgerd	5,089	..	2,550
Khenous	14,820	..	1,280
Kbeuli	1,548	..	455
Nermanlien	1,499	..	105
Sassun-Shadakh	5,957	..	1,185
Vartoo	2,003	..	530
Nomad Kurds	..	..	7,250
Total Moush	107,638	8,550	18,380
Total Bitlis	22,822	..	1,611
Total Bitlis Vilayet	130,460	8,550	20,021

Total Christian population, 130,460; total Moslem population, 28,571.

N.B.—Villages exclusively inhabited by Kurds are not shown in these statistics.

KHARPUT.

Names of Districts.	Armenians.	Armeno-Catholics.	Armeno-Protestants.	Armeno-Greeks.	Syrians.	Turks.	Kurds.	K. Kurds.	Turk Kizilbash.
Kharput	26,814	568	3,038	..	1,480	71,352 [1]	57,632	6,440	..
Arabgir	13,988	..	..	..	..	19,833	1,358	1,299	5,748
Argkaran	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,452	..	10,003
Aglien (Egin)	11,005	..	..	526	..	26,266 [2]	3,500 [3]	..	..
Palou	16,166	..	..	..	..	7,236	23,270	3,350	..
Tchabaghtchour	4,875	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,000 [4]	..
Tcharsandjak	14,841	..	..	..	..	2,953	5,517	..	..
Tchenkush town and villages ..	4,200	..	..	..	..	3,120	4,600	..	..
Total	142,789	568	3,038	526	1,480	121,762	97,359	22,019	15,757

Total Christian population, 146,401; total Moslem population, 256,897.

(1) Kharput Mahommedan figures are not very clear in original.
(2) After deducting for one village belonging to Sivas.
(3) These are nomad Kurds.
(4) Of whom some are Kizilbashes.

VAN.

	Armenians.	Nestorians.	Jews.	Turks.	Kurds.	Yezidis.	Circassians.
Van, &c. [1]	135,859	84,338	1,328	18,929	88,047 [2]	5,860	750

Total Christian population, 223,525; total Moslem population, 113,559.

(1) Not clear whether or not population of Van city is included.
(2) Of whom 48,650 nomads, 39,397 sedentary.

SIVAS.

	Armenians.	Turks.	Kurds.	K. Kurds and Nomads.	Afshars.
Sivas	7,781	6,112	518	14,976	..
Gerun	2,418	6,705	1,194	1,158	160
Total	10,199	12,817	1,712	16,134	160

Total Christian population, 10,199; total Moslem population, 30,883.

ALEPPO.

		Armenians.	Turks.	Circassians.
Zeitoun		27,160	8,200	..
Hadjine		12,997	5,222	460
Total		40,157	13,422	460

Total Christian population, 40,157; total Moslem population, 13,882.

No. 28.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 585.) *Constantinople, July 19, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside, reporting on his travels in the Vilayet of Aidin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Lieutenant Chermside to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 11.) *Aidin Guzel Hissar, June 30, 1881.*

My Lord,

HAVING been travelling during almost the whole of the past quarter in my Vice-Consular district, I have the honour to forward the following:—

Of the four sandjaks and their thirty-two component cazas (Kaïmakamliks) and thirty-six nahiés (Mudurluks) into which the district is divided, I have visited parts of all four sandjaks, twenty-five of the cazas, and twenty of the nahiés.

The improvements introduced into the Executive of the Administration by Midhat Pasha are most noticeable, and I know no district in this country where the influence of a Vali has made itself felt in the remotest localities of his province in so marked a manner. Restricted as are a Vali's powers now it is astonishing to find how much is yet possible with an able, energetic Governor. I have been several times recently beyond the limits of the vilayet and the difference in the state of affairs was very appreciable.

The bribe-eating, indolent zaptiehs in league with the robbers have been replaced by smart-looking gendarmes; these are horse and foot, and are concentrated principally in the towns, though a certain number are cantoned in important villages, guard-houses in defiles, &c.

The pay of the gendarmes is as follows:—

Foot gendarmes—

	Pcs.*
Private, per month, including allowance for ration	130
Corporal	140
Sergeant	150

As against foot zaptiehs—

	Pcs.†
Private, 70 pcs. per month, with bread allowance of ordinary value of 50 pcs. ..	120
Corporal, 76 pcs.	126
Sergeant, 90 pcs.	140

Horse zaptiehs get a barley ration, usually in kind.

The pay of the horse gendarmes, with money equivalent for bread and forage ration, is—

	Pcs.*
Private	250
Corporal	260
Sergeant	270

The discipline is much stricter than that which existed among the zaptiehs.

* The Turkish £ equal to 100 pcs.

† The Turkish £ equal to 120 pcs.

A few of the latter are retained for escorting posts and travellers, and tax gathering, but these have nothing to do with constabulary affairs.

In all the towns there are now police agents who are responsible for security in the town.

For patrol service, assistance in making arrests, &c., they have recourse to the gendarmes.

The pay is 300 piastres a-month, except for the higher rank police in the larger towns, who receive, according to grade, up to 450 piastres. In most towns there is one; in towns like Aidin and Manisa, three or four.

In Smyrna many of the police agents are Jews and Christians; in the outlying districts all I have met with are Moslems.

Police, gendarmes, and zaptiehs are all subject to one Administration in matters of pay, &c.

Theoretically, the gendarmes should all be picked men, who have passed through the army; here the recruiting has been done locally, and the theoretical organization has not been followed, although in the Smyrna sandjak many of the men have come from the capital where they were organized as gendarmes.

Of the zaptiehs, only efficient men of good character were retained as gendarmes; the present officers are mostly the former zaptieh officers, but these will be, I am assured, gradually replaced by military officers.

As the new organization here merely consists of the local introduction of the scheme elaborated at Constantinople for the whole Empire, I need not go into further details.

The working of the new régime has so far been very satisfactory, especially in the matter of the town police, and notably in Smyrna itself. I fear, however, that the pay of the gendarmes is too low, and that without constant rigorous inspection the force will soon degenerate.

During the past few months the security in towns and country has been quite abnormal; since the arrival of the new Vali acts of brigandage and robbery have occured, and whether a relapse will occur or not is dependent on his energy and capacity.

The existing rural police, an adjunct of the zaptieh force, was recently suppressed; it is being re-established on a different footing. The men are paid by the local municipalities, and wear civilian clothes with a Government badge. The pay is, I am told, 125 piastres per month.

The crops of barley, rye, and wheat are very good, as is the valuable opium crop. The price of the latter, however, at Smyrna is very low. In none of the districts I have visited since the harvest began have the ravages of locusts been very considerable, though I hear of one or two districts in the south-east where this has been the case. The promise of Indian corn, millet, valonea, raisins, figs, and olives are all good, but owing to fear of locusts but little cotton has been sown; and, should the usual flights of locusts from the interior take place, which so far has not been the case, much of the little cotton sown, and of the sesame crop, may be lost. Considering the number of locusts eggs deposited and of the young hatched out, the result so far is a most encouraging reward for the efforts that, owing to the Vali's energy and repeated circulars, have been made to destroy this pest. In the north-east district of the Aidin Vilayet, Gueurdiz, Kula, Takmak, Euzma, and Demirji, where there was scarcely last year almost amounting to famine, things are much better, and although there was acute suffering in May and June, the inhabitants impoverished by successive bad seasons and invasions of locusts having little but heels to eat, the crisis is now past, although the forwarding of grain from Alasheir still continues. In the adjacent districts of the Brusa Vilayet it is otherwise, and while the distress in May and June was already more accentuated, the harvest on the highlands is still unreaped; as Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson and Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow were travelling in the same district at the same time, it is unnecessary for me to give details of the scarcity and distress and the limited Government relief.

In parts of this district there are valuable tobacco crops,—at Ayasuluk, Tchekuije, Manisa, &c., but under the present system the cultivation is very limited, and not very remunerative to either the Government or the producer, except the latter in so far as he recoups himself by contraband. The system and its defects have been, I believe, often described in detail.

An important work is going on in the attempt to systematically establish the nomads. For some years districts have been assigned to them and their migrations limited, and but few tribes have been able to take the long journeys of

former days. Some, but a large minority, have for years been established in villages, and this operation in most of the cases I have seen is now being taken vigorously in in hand, the tribe being distributed in groups of five or six families in different villages.

The summer mountain pastures will still be utilized, but instead of men, women, children, and tents all going there, the herds and shepherds are alone to go. This year the locusts have much damaged the mountain pastures. So wedded are these curious people to their old life that even where they have villages, being no longer allowed to wander, they pitch their black tents close to them in summer. The tribes are extremely numerous, I have come across over twenty; it is exceedingly hard to learn anything of their origin and traditions. At the present time nearly all speak only Turkish, most are Orthodox Moslems (Sunni), and with every considerable assemblage of tents is an Imam ("precentor"). A certain number have their children educated in schools in the towns. The women do not veil. Flocks and herds form their source of wealth, and many are well to do, they pay sheep tax, octroi dues on the sale of produce, and give conscripts. Now that there are no longer any Beys among them, only Ayans and Mukhtars as Representatives, it is very difficult to get at any reliable information concerning them, or to find out how the various tribes got their designations.

If the present operation is successfully carried out, although there is wonderful vitality in the separate existence of clans in the East, they will probably become amalgamated with the rural population. The numbers of tents per clan varies from 50 up to 2,000; the principal ones I have come across are the Tekelu, Chepne, Burkhan, Ak Daghlu, Kizil Ishiklu, Kara Kechilu, Farsak, Shehidlu, and Alji; until, however, I can learn enough of interest to forward a special Report, it is not worth while going into greater detail.

As mentioned above the vilayet is in general more civilized, more populous, and better cultivated than usual in Anatolia; towns are more numerous and fine villages, as are trees, gardens, and inclosures; besides a large amount of waste land covered with scrub there are considerable tracts of forest land, and localities where timber for construction and fuel are not readily procurable are rare.

For the first time in Anatolia I have found the forest regulations more or less enforced.

Except near the coast, the rural population is almost exclusively Moslem. Christians and Jews are found in the towns; the former are principally Greeks, the number of Armenians being very small. A good many well-to-do foreigners reside at farms and factories in the interior, but the foreign population of the towns, except Smyrna, is very small, and consists principally of Hellenes, and in places of a few Persians. In the towns there are a good many Albanians, and among the rural population a few communities of Circassians, Tatars, and Daghestanlis.

The Greeks certainly get on better with the Turks than any other Christians I have seen in the East, and this in spite of the gradual but almost complete displacement of Turks by Greeks on the littoral, and of the absorption of the wealth and property of the former by the latter wherever established in the towns and khans of the interior. Active fanaticism is very much diminished, Christian women in the towns no longer veil or adopt the Turkish customs, though I observe a rather amusing relic of the bitter feeling that gave Smyrna the name of Giaour Izmir, or Smyrna of the Infidels, in former days, in the fact that in this district nearly every Moslem who has occasion to curse at an animal, be it horse, camel, mule, ass, or dog, calls it a ——— Christian, instead of indulging in other of the expletives in which the Turkish tongue is rich enough.

The Greek schools are decidedly the best native schools in Asiatic Turkey. A considerable education movement is going on among the Turks in the direction of better school-rooms, abler teachers, more pupils, &c.; but the radical reform of abandoning the system of instruction at present principally confined to teaching Arabic by rote has yet to be made.

The Rusdieh schools, originally established as denominational ones, but which under the strong policy of Ali Pasha, at the time of the Mahommedan revival of twenty-five years ago, became exclusively Moslem, remain practically so, and are in a bad state.

The grant of a year ago of 10 per cent. on the surplus revenue after paying the expenses of administration, for public works and public instruction must apparently remain a dead-letter in this province where the sums would have been considerable, *i.e.*, upwards of 30,000 liras for each service, as the surplus revenue of the Aidin

Vilayet, *i.e.*, 76½ per cent, after allowing 23½ per cent. for the expenses of the Administration, has been assigned to the payment of the salaries of the Civil Service employés at Constantinople.

The Turkish population in most of the large towns, especially in all the west of the province, where they are most in contact with Levantine civilization and Christian Greeks, does not compare favourably with that of the far interior. Raki drinking and drunkenness, periodically prevalent even among the lower classes of the whole Empire from early times, but succeeded every now and then by a recurrence of a strict observance of the abstinence enjoined by the Moslem religion, have been since the movement of twenty-five years ago principally confined in the interior to the ruling classes; here, unfortunately, they are exceedingly common among all classes, and, with the uneducated self-indulgent Turk, with the worst results; so that in integrity, morality, and truthfulness, there is a marked falling-off from the general standard. Thriftless and idle, from the gendarme with his reckoning at the café and grocery, to the Notable in the clutches of money-lending merchants, nearly all are in debt. Marriage festivities (as wakes formerly in Ireland) are a great cause of this; the authorities have in vain tried to discourage them. A common Turk, when about to be married, will borrow 40*l.* or 50*l.* or more if he can, spend it in embroidered jackets and eating and drinking, and remain ever after hopelessly hampered by the interest of the debt.

There is a very considerable amount of immorality among the Turkish and Greek populations in the towns and near the coast, what is of rare occurrence in the interior, of immorality between Turks of both sexes and Christians.

The Turkish population here, as elsewhere, does not take to hard, continuous work, and the Greek agricultural districts near the coast form a marked contrast in industry and prosperity to the Turkish rural districts. Vine, olive, and fruit-culture are all better carried on by the Greek, and, with the exception of a few handicrafts solely Turkish, whether as tradesman, peasant, artilleer, or even sportsman, he completely distances the Turk.

The railways have had a considerable effect on the country, short as they are, and their extension is eagerly looked forward to by the population as a panacea; this extension must necessarily be very gradual and limited; as compared to other countries population is sparse, while, as they penetrate into the interior, many less fertile districts are reached, and valuable products diminish. It is much to be regretted that a narrower gauge than the broad European one has not been adopted.

Roads to the various ports and to the stations are a great desideratum; local public work funds were established by the last Vali but one, called "nafieh sanduk;" the capital of these, some £T. 40,000 the first year, was raised by an addition to the tithe of 1 to 2½ per cent., varying according to the locality and its immediate requirements. Local Committees, subject to central control, administer these funds; so far, beyond collecting money, there has been very little result to show, and much of the usual peculation, in some places however, assistance has been given in the campaign against the locusts.

Under Midhat Pasha numerous works were taken in hand, roads and bridges, the Government furnishing engineers, the local "nafieh" the funds; and there was every reason to look for good results.

Two and a-half per cent. is an excessive charge for the heavily-taxed peasant. The institution is only of two years date, and is a new one to me; under good management and control, which is just what it is least likely to get, it might be productive of great progress.

There is also the "Menafieh," or agricultural bank organisation in this province, introduced some thirteen or fourteen years ago, after the promulgation of the Law of the Vilayets. The capital was raised by an addition of, I think, 1 per cent. to the tithes for a year or two, and amounted to over 300,000*l.*, the depreciation of caimé has reduced this to a nominal capital of 160,000*l.*

The object of this institution has completely miscarried, chiefly through the dishonesty or partiality of its administrators. Practically the peasant has found difficulty in getting loans; the interest is 12 per cent., but even where he has succeeded in getting a loan, he has paid so heavily for a guarantee that the interest has been far higher. The money has mostly got into the hands of Notables, who re-lend to the peasant at various rates; some 30,000*l.*, I am told by the Director of the Ottoman Bank at Smyrna, could be liquidated, and he is most anxious that it should be lent to those at Tchesmeh, who have failed to secure the usual advances they count on at this season.

N

Hitherto the Menafich administration has been local, not central.

The same cannot be said of the Judicial Tribunals as of the Executive, and the discouraging report universal throughout Anatolia as to indolence, venality, and incapacity, is the only one I can give.

In some of the Tribunals there is a striking difference between the Greek Christian members and the Armenians of further east, who are usually merely dummies, or the consenting accomplices of dishonest Turks.

The Greek often masters the new laws and regulations which indolence or prejudice usually prevent the Turkish President from doing, and in many cases the latter is merely a tool in the hands of the former.

The resident foreigners naturally find much fault with the local Commercial Courts, which, except at the vilayet and sandjak head-quarters, are merely the ordinary Civil and Criminal Courts ("Bidayet"), judging and acting according to commercial code and procedure. Even on appeal to head-quarters, although in the case of foreign subjects, foreign assessors are appointed as members of the Court, as these are not legists, affairs, owing to the ignorance and incompetence of the Court itself, are often, in fact usually, disgracefully delayed and mismanaged.

A suggestion that these two members should be legists, ready to act on behalf of the subjects of any foreign nationality, seems a good one for such an important place as Smyrna.

The comparative order, more numerous population, and greater wealth and progress of this district, are very relative matters, and are due, partly to natural advantages of site and climate, partly to the influence of the commerce and foreign capital and population of Smyrna.

The administration is certainly an improvement on the relapse of three or four years ago, and there is less chaos in financial affairs, though greater financial pressure. The laxity in financial affairs in Turkey is almost inconceivable; thus the yield of the taxes in this vilayet of two years ago is not yet known. The control over the local accountants is next to nothing, there are no real general audits, and the wilful negligence of the Government in such matters costs it enormous sums.

Taxes are collected spasmodically and irregularly in the cazas, and forwarded to the sandjaks at uncertain periods, and thence to the vilayet. The local accountants ("muhassibejis") rob the Government right and left; the sums collected are not forwarded, if possible, either at once or in their entirety. Merchants who have to import specie have urgent need of cash at the buying times of produce; this is often lent them from the public moneys, and the interest goes into the official's pocket. Nearly all these accountants are "sarrafs" or bankers, and do business on their own account with public funds. The connivance of the Governor appears necessary.

The Ottoman Bank has agencies at Maniza and Aidin, and had one at Moghla (the three sandjak head-quarters). It is proposed to establish one at Nazilli. The advantage to the Government of paying-in its taxes to the Bank and getting the credit locally, at Smyrna or at Constantinople, is evident, as transport, especially horse transport of specie (mostly in debased silver coinage) is very expensive. To the merchants it is a great boon, as, instead of importing specie, letters of credit from their agents at Smyrna is all that is requisite; yet the paying-in of taxes to these agencies meets with the most determined opposition, and at Maniza was actually abandoned owing to the hostility of the employés; the Government loss is enormous.

The system of collection and remission of taxes in Turkey is crude, expensive, and inconvenient. The money, when collected, is forwarded, except that required to pay "havales," by post.

Nearly all the lines of post are now in a wretched state, and I doubt if one-fifth of the post-houses now exist that existed a few years ago.

The posts of Asia Minor are of very ancient date, and many of the through lines have been in use since ages before the Turkish times. The development of steam navigation, and of the telegraph, are the principal causes of the miserable condition of the land postal service; the scarcity of horses, due to loss from famine, the poverty of the Government, and the general depression and decadence, are minor ones. The stages are now very long, in hardly an instance less than eight post hours (about 28 miles), and in numerous cases up to eighteen hours, even on such great thoroughfares as the Bagdad-Samsun line. Travellers now seldom use the post; on the cross lines there are no longer posting establishments, and most cross lines are locally contracted for the post, consisting of one man going through for two, three, four, or more days with the same horse, often doing only thirty miles a-day in fine weather. The main posts travel in ordinary weather 60 to 80 miles in the twenty-four hours as a

normal rate; but if the postal contract of a district be unsettled, 30 miles a-day is not uncommon for weeks or months. The money, mostly metallic and silver, is forwarded from the outlying districts to the post routes, and thence again to the sandjak or vilayet head-quarters. A horse-load of the ordinary currency contains about 100,000 piastres, equal to £T 1,000; its carriage, independent of the postal subvention, cost of escort, &c., will cost about 9*s.* per diem in this district. All the currency is thus drawn out of the country, and the merchants have to reimport it, while the postal charge for groups is exorbitant. From vilayet head-quarters it is forwarded to Constantinople, costing here an extra ½ per cent., and when the money is counted at the Treasury there is an extra loss of 2 to 3 per 1,000; this is effected by a peculiar way of grasping the money-bags in emptying, whereby a piece held through the stuff of the bag by each hand remains inside it; the bags are thrown aside, and the spoil afterwards divided by the employés. This loss, however, as well as that of all bad pieces, is written off against the provincial accountants.

I have recently learnt, on the best authority, that the Government collection of tithes, if not as disastrous as in some other provinces, at any rate resulted in enormous loss. Into the well-known reasons of this loss I need not enter.

In one district outside my own, visited by Sir C. Wilson's instructions, I found that the experiment was being made of an assessment and a money equivalent of the tithe to be paid by the villagers. The inhabitants were very much in favour of it, but as yet it is only an experiment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 527.) *Foreign Office, July 27, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 556 of the 10th instant, inclosing one from Vice-Consul Gatheral, relative to the measures which the Turkish Government should adopt to counteract the effects of the locust plague in Angora, and I entirely concur in your Excellency's observations as to the care necessary in communicating with the Porte upon questions relating to the internal administration of the Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 30.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28, 11 A.M.)

(No. 338.) *Constantinople, July 28, 1881, 10 A.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

SHEIKH OBEIDULLAH has arrived at Constantinople, and has met with a very friendly reception at the hands of the Sultan, being treated like a Prince on a visit.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 535.) *Foreign Office, July 29, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE to request you to convey to Lieutenant Chermside my thanks for his interesting Report on the condition of the Vilayet of Aidin, inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 585 of the 19th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 32.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 590.) *Therapia, July 21, 1881.*

My Lord,

ON receiving Captain Clayton's despatch No. 31 of the 27th ultimo, relating to the ill-treatment of the Nestorians as brought to his notice by Dr. Wahl, I requested

Mr. Plunkett to point out to his Excellency, Assim Pasha, that so far from the representations in regard to this matter in February being exaggerated, as the Porte had contended, it appeared from the further report of our Consul that the state of things was really worse than had been represented to his Excellency.

Assim Pasha listened to Mr. Plunkett's remarks with interest, and said that he would make further inquiry into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 33.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 594. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 23, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Sir C. Wilson with reference to the employment of Lieutenants Chermside and Bennet during next autumn.

I have informed Sir C. Wilson that I acquiesce in his proposed arrangements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 17. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sivas, July 6, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd instant, informing me that Lieutenant Chermside's services might possibly be required in connection with the distribution of the Chio relief fund, and to inclose at the same time a copy of my reply.

With reference to the suggestion which I proposed to make that Lieutenant Chermside should be sent to the country north of Mosul, in October next, I would beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the want of information in regard to the condition of the people in that part of Asiatic Turkey, and to the wishes and feelings of the mixed population of Kurds, Yezidis, and Christians; as well as to the desirability of obtaining more accurate information than is now possessed of a district which would be of great military interest in the event of future complications on the frontier.

Lieutenant Chermside accompanied Baker Pasha's mission during the winter of 1879-80, and reported on the country as far as Mosul, but the mission was unfortunately recalled, and Lieutenant Chermside returned with it to Sivas, leaving some of the most important localities unvisited. I know of no one more calculated to win the confidence and respect of the semi-barbarous people of that region than Lieutenant Chermside, and he is at the same time an accomplished topographer. I may add that Lieutenants Chermside and Bennet have, between them, almost completed a military sketch of all the passes through the Taurus, from the Cilician Gates eastwards to Mosul, and that they have found the country very different from that which it is represented to be on our best maps.

I beg also to inclose a copy of a telegram with reference to the employment of Lieutenant Bennet, R.E. That officer was ordered to Marash in the spring, as some movement was expected amongst the Armenians at Zeitoun. I gather from Lieutenant Bennet's despatches that the country is quieter than it was expected to be, and I should be glad if he were now allowed to proceed to Kaisariyeh, and thence before winter sets in to Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant.

C. W. W.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

Sivas, July 3, 1881.

(Telegraphic.)
YOUR telegram of yesterday.

I was going to suggest that the officer named should be sent to the country north of Mosul in October, otherwise he can be spared.

Inclosure 3 in No. 33.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

Sivas, July 6, 1881.

(Telegraphic.)
MAY I order Lieutenant Bennet to proceed from Marash to Kaisariyeh at the end of this month?

No. 34.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 608.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 26, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Phare du Bosphore," giving the translation of an article from the "Novoe Vremia," a Panslavist organ, on the subject of the position of the Armenian clergy in Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore" of July 23, 1881.

LES ARMÉNIENS EN RUSSIE.—A la suite d'un article violent publié par "l'Allgemeine Zeitung," contre l'Administration Russe par rapport à la situation des Arméniens dans le district de Kars, le "Novoe Vremia," organe Panslaviste, a publié à son tour un article violent contre les Arméniens. Il dit, entre autres: "Jusqu'à quand resterons-nous indifférents aux complots du clergé Arménien, et le laisserons-nous prêcher ses idées nationales non seulement dans les écoles Arméniennes, mais encore dans celles élevées par nous-mêmes? N'est-il pas temps de chasser ce clergé de notre territoire?"

Ce journal Russe fanatique attaque également avec la même violence le "Golos," le "Roussky Kourrière," le "Strana," la "Slovo," et le "Poriadoc," organes du parti Libéral, qui défendent toujours les intérêts Arméniens et blâment les actes arbitraires des autorités du Caucase et de Kars.

"Ce sont," dit le "Novoe Vremia," "ces feuilles qui, en se faisant les échos des griefs du peuple Arménien, sont la cause aujourd'hui des attaques et des railleries par le journal Allemand contre l'Administration Russe."

La fureur que ressent la feuille Panslaviste contre les Arméniens provient de motifs qui n'ont pour source que le fanatisme et une politique de courte vue en même temps qu'inopportune. Aussi les journaux libéraux Russes sont-ils unanimes à blâmer l'organe Panslaviste en lui reprochant ses idées surannées. Mais il ne faut pas perdre de vue que le "Novoe Vremia," et le "Moskovskia Vitomosdi," ont des rapports intimes avec la direction imprimée aux affaires par le Général Iguatieff.

No. 35.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4, 2·50 P.M.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, August 4, 1881.*

MR. ABBOTT telegraphed yesterday that Hamla Agha, one of the ringleaders in last year's Kurdish revolt, with five of his relations and followers, had been captured and killed by the Persian Governor of Souj Boulak. This information is confirmed by the Persian Government.

No. 36.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 622.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 29, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 550 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Trotter, relative to the Vali of Diarbekir and the Mutessarif of Bayazid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 12, 1881.*

IN compliance with a wish expressed verbally by your Lordship, I write prior to returning to Chio, to remind that one of the earliest points to which I would beg your Lordship's attention, is the desirability of the removal from office of Izzet Pasha, the Vali of Diarbekir, and Ibrahim Bey, the Mutessarif of Bayazid.

Last April, prior to starting for Chio, I gave to Mr. Nicolson a sort of "Acte d'Accusation" which I had prepared at the request of his Excellency the Ambassador, and which his Excellency told me he intended to have translated and handed in to the Porte. I am unaware, however, what steps, if any, were taken in the matter.

Since the preparation of this "Acte," however, fresh source of complaint has arisen against the Mutessarif of Bayazid, and I would beg to request your Excellency's particular attention to Captain Everett's despatch No. 13 of the 24th June, 1881, in which he describes the discourteous and uncompromising manner of the Mutessarif with reference to the imprisonment of Ghazaros Effendi, one of the employés of the Relief Committee.

I fear, however, that this matter is not so simple as it would appear on the surface, but that the Vali of Erzeroum and the Mutessarif of Bayazid were probably acting under the direct orders of the Palace (or Porte, as the case may be).

I think your Excellency will probably adopt the same view after perusal of a private letter from Captain Clayton, which I hope to show your Excellency at an early opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. TROTTER.

No. 37.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 617.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 28, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti, in which he describes the want of public security in the western districts of the Vilayet of Trebizond, and the measures taken by the Governor-General to allay the panic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, July 16, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report the following cases which came to my knowledge from the western districts of this vilayet:—

About two months since eighty of the Abazians who emigrated here in 1878, having made up their minds to return to Russia, the Kaïmakam of Thermé, where they resided, did not allow them to embark until they paid him 400 silver medjidiés.

Towards the middle of last month forty Armenians from the village of Ifraz, at Uniah, being prevented by the Kaïmakam to embark on board a boat chartered by them, clandestinely did so on board another vessel; but, being unable to come to terms with the master, they landed at a place called Mitropoli, two hours distant from Uniah. The Lazes, who have a settlement in that spot, plundered the intended emigrants and ravished their wives and daughters.

Nearly a month ago, at Fatza, a certain Mahmoud Pehlivan having resisted with arms to zaptiehs who were endeavouring to apprehend him, he was fired at and severely wounded. While lying prostrate and unable to defend himself, they stabbed him three times, and finally smashed his head with a large stone, when he expired. This tragedy, which took place before the Governor's residence, is reported by an eye-witness. The zaptiehs who committed this outrage, and who are Lazes, were arrested, and an inquiry seems to be taking place.

Not later than three weeks ago, a quarrel having ensued between a Laz zaptieh and a young man (whose religious creed is not mentioned) of the village of Kelzi-Keui, whom he had orders to summon to appear in Court for a debt of 16 piastres (3*s.*), the former mortally wounded with his cutlass the young man, who died in the night. The zaptieh has absconded.

The Governor-General, to whom I reported these cases, does not put faith in the two former, and was going to make inquiries as to the two latter, which had not been brought to his knowledge, they being of the resort of the Judicial Courts.

A few months back goods to the value of 300*l.* were stolen from the first station on the Kerassond-Karahissar road. Five of the robbers, who are all Lazes, have just been apprehended and brought here for trial, from fear that they might be rescued by their countrymen from the prisons of Kerassond. The merchants of that town, in order to secure commercial communications with the interior, have been under the necessity to hire, since that time, at their expense, men to reinforce the few zaptiehs guarding the fore-mentioned road.

It seems that no one ventures in the country in those districts from fear of the Lazes, who are everywhere met armed to the teeth.

I have not the means, except by a personal visit of the spots, to ascertain the truth of the foregoing reports, as also of another which was received by the Armenian Archbishop, and which is denied by the local authorities, that fifteen Armenian families of Uniah, which were about to embark for Russia at Djillar, were plundered by Lazes, and one of the party murdered. This is, perhaps, another version of the occurrence at Metropoli.

A fortnight ago a young Greek was ruthlessly murdered at Matchka, a few hours from this town, by Mussulmans, one of whom had just been released from prison after having served out his time for a previous murder. The perpetrators of the outrage were apprehended and are in gaol.

The Governor-General is not to be blamed for the disorders which take place in this vilayet, and which he does his utmost to prevent. But he has an insufficient police force at his disposal, and the inadequacy of the salary does not permit to recruit that body amongst men presenting the required qualifications.

For the last month the inhabitants of Trebizond have been kept in continual anxiety by persistent rumours of nightly house-breaking in different quarters of the town. It is the firm conviction of the public that the scheme was devised by Rushdi Pasha's partizans to discredit Sirri Pasha in the eyes of his superiors, and I am not far from sharing this opinion.

The Governor-General took all possible measures to put a stop to the panic with which was seized the public, though, with one exception, no robberies were committed, and the circumstances connected with that case leave a wide field of conjecture as to its perpetrators.

In the absence of a sufficient police force, the artillerymen were called out, and the natives invited by Sirri Pasha to patrol their respective quarters. Quiet has been restored since a week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 38.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 619.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 28, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting the appointment of Hassan Pasha as Mutessarif of Samsoon, in the room of Hadji Reshid Pasha, who has been transferred to Kaisarieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, July 18, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Hassan Pasha, a very old man, who has not held a post for the last twelve years, I am told, has been appointed Mutessarif of Samsoon, in the room of Hadji Reshid Pasha, who has been transferred to Kaisarieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 39.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 620.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 28, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 548 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond relating to the emigration of Christians from that district.

I have mentioned to the Greek Minister here Mr. Biliotti's suggestion that the Greek population should be encouraged to emigrate to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, July 20, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 35 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Russian Consul managed after all to station an emigration agent at Gumushané.

It is rumoured that, besides nearly 200 Greek families which have already departed this year, no less than 500 are about to emigrate to Russia.

I should not be surprised that with the rumour which is spread of the satisfactory treatment with which met those who preceded them to Kars, and a Russian agent encouraging emigration, the district of Gumushané should be, in the course of time, entirely depopulated of its Greek inhabitants. After the late war they numbered about 2,500 families.

Fifty of the eighty-five Greek families, on the subject of whom the Russian Consul wrote to the Pasha, have already passed here on their way to Russia, and the remainder are soon expected to follow. They all belong to Hapsamané, one of the inland cantons of the district of Ordoo. But I understand that a number of Greek families have also departed, or are about to depart, from other parts of the coast.

The Armenian Bishop informs me that in spite of his endeavours several families of Tekirchamba, where the Armenian element predominates, follow the example of the Greeks.

The fact is that the Christian populations, who cannot continue to live under the present system of government, having given up all hope of ever seeing real reforms introduced in the country, resort to emigration as the only option left to them.

Mussulmans are under the same feeling, but emigration presents to them insuperable difficulties. I understand, however, that a few Laz emigrants have already returned to Russia.

I beg to call attention to the fact that, though the Greeks of this vilayet emigrate to Russia, they have no great sympathy for that country; but having made up their minds to depart from Turkey, the Caucasus is the nearest place to go to, and that of which they know most.

However, they would be an acquisition, so valuable for Greece, especially now with her extended territory, that it is to be wondered that the idea does not seem to have been seriously considered to attract a quiet, hardy, and easily governable population which would be a source of riches for the country.

Emigration in Greece would besides be of the greatest interest for the Greeks of Pontus themselves, who by affinity of race, religion, language, customs, and character would be placed in the mother-country in a position which they can never look for in Russia. The only link with the latter country is religious creed, and that only to a certain extent. In Greece they would continue to maintain and would develop their present nationality, while in the Caucasus they would soon be Russified.

As the Greeks here naturally sympathize with Greece, I am convinced that grants of land and other indispensable facilities for emigrants would attract them all in that country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 40.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 623.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 29, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Stewart, containing a report on the Deir Sandjak, with a sketch map of his recent journey, and lists of the Bedouin and Fellah tribes in the Vilayet of Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Report by Captain Stewart on the Deir Sandjak and on some of the neighbouring Districts.

THE Deir Sandjak belongs to the Aleppo Vilayet, and is situated to the east and south-east of that town. It includes a large tract of so-called desert country lying between the Tigris and Euphrates, as well as the desert on the right bank of the latter river. The sandjak is of great extent, extending to within 21 miles of Mardyn, 18 miles of Orfa, 30 miles of Aleppo, 36 miles of Hama, 72 miles of Damascus, far away to the south towards Nejd, close up to the Ana and Kain in the direction of Baghdad, and to within 12 miles of the Sinjar Dagh. The capital of the sandjak is at Deir, a dusty hot town of about 1,000 houses, 150 of which are Christians, situated on the right bank of the Euphrates, and about eight days' journey from Aleppo.

The sandjak is divided into four cazas: Ashare, Abukamel, Ras-el-Ain, Rikka. Included in the above are five nahiyés: Viranschehr (or Yenischehr), Kenbeh (or Khabour), Sabha, Tudmor, Bassora.

Nature of the Country.—Rivers.—Mountains.—In general the country may be described as an open, treeless prairie, intersected with hill ranges of moderate height. Passing west of Tudmor, and following a tolerably straight line running transverse across the plain, *i.e.*, from south-west to north-east, is a chain of hills, which may be roughly divided into three groups. Near Tudmor, on the right bank of the river, the first group is called Jebel Anur (or Jebel Abiad), and further north-east, and pretty much in the same line, is the Jebel Bassir. On the left bank there is the Abdul Aziz range, and further north-east the Sinjar Dagh.

Of the two divisions into which the country is divided by the Euphrates, that on the left bank is the more level, the more fertile, and the best watered. On the right bank the Euphrates has no affluent, and the only water obtainable in the extensive tract of country stretching from the river westward to Homs and Hama is from springs and wells, which are few and far apart, and whose water is frequently strongly impregnated with sulphur. On the left bank springs are much more common, and the water is generally good. A large tract of country on this bank is also watered by the Khabour and its affluent, the Zalughejak. The Khabour is a river of some size, which, rising to the north of Ras-el-Ain from a very large spring, is joined some distance down by the small stream of the Zalughejak, and after following a southerly course and passing between the Abdul-Aziz and Sinjar mountain ranges, joins the Euphrates south of Deir. The Zalughejak rises some 15 to 18 miles north of the town of Nisibin, receiving a succession of feeders (small) from the Rumela district to the east.

In the earlier part of its course the Khabour is almost on a level with the plain, but lower down it hollows out a bed in the light soil, from 6 to 12 or 15 feet deep. From the Sinjar Dagh to the east, and beyond the sandjak, a number of small streams run south across the plain. The chief of these is the Sinjar Su, rising under the town of that name. These streams by degrees unite to form the Thurthar River, an affluent of the Tigris. The Khabour River is, perhaps, navigable during part of its course.

Agriculture—Villages.—As may be supposed from the above description, on the right bank, away from the Euphrates, the extent of cultivated land is quite insignificant. The few villages scattered about, such as Sokhna, Tudmor, &c., are poor, miserable, decaying places. Their inhabitants are mainly occupied in extracting potash from the desert weeds. This potash is sent to Orfa, Aleppo, &c., and there used in the manufacture of soap. A handsome profit is made in the transaction. I was told that formerly these villages were much larger, and that the Bedouins have ruined them. Judging from the number of deserted houses, there is probably some truth in this statement, but even in their most prosperous time they can never have been much to boast of, as generally the supply of water is both scanty and of indifferent quality, and the villages are separated from each other and the coast by miles of waterless plain.

In the actual Euphrates Valley there are many villages; in some the people reside during winter in mud hovels, going into tents in the summer; in others, tents are used all the year round. In the Khabour, Zalughejak, Rumela, and other districts stretching east to the Tigris and north nearly up to the Taurus, tents are in general use. In these districts the cultivation is very superior in extent to any to be seen on the right bank, although very far indeed to what it might become under an intelligent Government and with cheap transport to the coast. Of late years in some districts, such as the Khabour, Rumela, &c., I am indeed told the acreage under cultivation has fallen off. The Jibour Arabs, a tribe of Fellahs residing in the Khabour district, report that some ten years ago the district was fairly well cultivated, and that there were twenty to thirty water-wheels then for every one to be seen now. The reasons given for this contrast between the past and the present are:—Arbitrary and excessive taxation; the plundering of officials; raids from Bedouins; robberies and murders by the Chechian and Kara Boulak emigrants, who came into the country after Sheikh Shamyl's defeat by the Russians, and were established at Ras-el-Ain; last year's famine. What I saw during my ride through that and other districts fully corroborates their statement. In many places along the Khabour wild corn is growing in profusion along the river bank, and deserted villages are frequently passed. The soil both in that and many other districts of the so-called desert is singularly rich. So much is this the case, that even under the present miserable attempts at agriculture the yields are frequently astonishing, thirty and forty-fold being by no means uncommon. In the vicinity of Orfa, on a farm owned by a European, the yield in some cases has been as high as seventy-fold. Wherever water can be had for irrigation the results are always fine. Hence the great value of the Khabour River, the water of which might easily be made available for irrigating thousands of acres.

Crops (Varieties).—The chief crops grown in these and other districts are:—Corn, millet, barley, rice; near Ras-el-Ain; maize at Orfa; cotton, castor-oil, lentils, flax, a species of pea for cattle-feeding, called by the natives "julban" and "sesame," are also grown.

In that district, till within the last three years, the silkworm has been reared.

In the Sinjar grapes and figs are extensively grown, and the latter exported.

This year the harvest promises to be everywhere very good, but I am told the area under seed is rather less than usual. The reason given for this is, that to prepare land for seed it has to be ploughed over some three or four times; hence a good supply of yoke cattle are necessary; unfortunately, many died last year.

Herds.—What, however, the desert is especially adapted for is grazing. Of this the Bedouin takes full advantage. It is a sight quite unique in its way to see the number of animals coming towards the camp about sunset. Far as the eye can reach the country appears alive with herds of camels and sheep. Towards the east, near Mosul, the buffalo puts in an appearance. It is almost needless to remark that all products derived from milk are exceedingly abundant. The Sinjar district is said to be singularly well-suited for sheep; they come to maturity very early, and are exceedingly fertile.

Tenure of Lands: different Classes.—There are five systems of land tenure to be found in the desert:—

"Miriè" (belonging to a Prince). Land thus held is purchased direct from the Government, and on the condition that if, after the lapse of three years, it is not cultivated, it is to revert to the Government. There is a great deal of land held under this tenure, but the condition under which it is held is generally a dead letter. Within the last two years many of the Aleppo Notables have, as a speculation, purchased for merely nominal sums large tracts of "miriè" land. "Memlooké" (possessed). "Miriè" land becomes "memlooké" directly it is broken up. In the desert there is but little of this kind of tenure. Near Aleppo the extent of "memlooké" land is increasing. The owner can will it as he likes.

"Metrooké" (abandoned). Uncultivated grounds. In the desert, owing to their immense extent, they represent no money value.

"Muat" (dead). Barren lands, grazing grounds, roads, commons, extensive tracts of this class of land, are to be found in the desert. Many of them, such as commons, village grazing grounds, &c., are by law unsaleable.

"Evkaff" (pious foundation). But little of this kind of tenure is to be found.

Besides the above different classes of holding there is not far from Bab a large Imperial farm (Chiftlik Humayun). The value of the tithes alone from this farm is £T. 40,000. The Constantinople Parliament directed that this chiftlik should be sold, but the order was never carried out.

In theory the above are the different systems of land tenure. Practically it is very different. Where the population is so scanty and vagrant and land so abundant, it has but little if any value. Practically, all a Fellah has to do is to select the most convenient unoccupied piece of land he can find and set to work to till it. It then becomes his by right. Probably in some cases quarrels may occur for lands favourably placed near springs, camps, &c.; in such cases, I believe, the Sheikh has a voice in deciding the matter. In other cases, I am told, where the original owner has not sufficient cattle to work up all his land, the Sheikh sometimes tells off a portion of it to some wealthier

person. The Sheikh himself is generally an extensive owner, and employs labourers. The following is the salary paid by a Sheikh of my acquaintance: An annual sum of 200 piastres, a suit of clothes, a pair of shoes, and enough corn for the labourer's family.

Taxation.—Similar to other parts of Turkey, the conduct of the tax-gatherer and the system of levying afford frequent causes for complaint. In the sandjak itself the tithe system is apparently not adopted, or at any rate very partially, and the crop tax is arbitrarily ("mustesna") and roughly estimated by the Government collector and the head of the village, or Sheikh, who ride round the crops and assess each owner. It is evident what a field of peculation this system affords. Another complaint is, as the tithe is generally collected in money, the collector frequently estimates its money value at double or more than its real market price. The tithe is not usually farmed, but is collected by Government officers, frequently military men. In the Khabour and Euphrates districts the tax is sometimes laid on the water-wheel instead of on the crop—each water-wheel being assessed at 18 chumbuls of corn. On the Euphrates the water is mostly raised from the river by a pair of bullocks lifting a leather bucket, as in India. The tax or tithe on this style of irrigation is 9 chumbuls. (A chumbul of wheat = 80 okes = 213 lbs.; a chumbul of barley = 64 okes = 170 lbs.) Many of the inhabitants complained of this system of collection, although I could not clearly make out for what reason. They said it had been condemned by the Aleppo Commission. In most of the neighbouring districts the tithe is collected as elsewhere, *i.e.*, in kind. To collect the tithe the crop is divided into ten heaps. The Government officer or "muttezum" chooses any one of the heaps he fancies. Afterwards, should the field happen to be part of a chifflik (property), the owner chooses four heaps, and is followed by the farmer, who also chooses four. The last heap is equally divided between the proprietor and farmer. Besides the tithe, the peasantry pay the usual sheep and goat tax, 3½ piastres, and the camel tax, 10 piastres. They also pay on "emlak verghisi" or property tax, *i.e.*, on houses or tents, gardens, &c. As yet the system of sending valuers round has not been introduced, and each village and community is assessed at a certain lump sum, which the Sheikh, assisted by the Elders, apportions off among the villagers. According to the old law, each house, garden, &c, should be assessed at 10 per 1,000 on its letting price or rent. This has recently been changed; the tax on rent has been done away with, and it has been decided that houses, &c., valued above 20,000 piastres, are to pay 8 per 1,000; those under 20,000 piastres, 4 per 1,000. So far as my experience goes of places where property has been valued, the result has been that the people as a whole have had to pay more. It is very unlikely that the valuer would be such a fool to his own interests as to diminish the revenue the Government receives. The only gainers are the wealthy, or those who can bribe with the natural consequence that the poor are losers.

At Deir I hear that the "verghi," or tax on trade profits, &c., has recently been introduced. This tax is meant to correspond with the "oshur," or tithe, which the peasantry pay.

Of the rascality and venality of the officials it is superfluous to write. Perhaps as the district is a wild one, and the inhabitants especially ignorant, they are able to rob with greater impunity than elsewhere.

As for the Bedouins, they are supposed to pay a camel tax of 10 piastres per head. The collection of this tax is difficult, the Bedouin not paying unless he is overawed. As the Government has no means of estimating the number of camels, the Sheikh's word has more or less to be taken on trust. The tax can only be collected during summer, when the Bedouin comes north for pasture. The Bedouin is also supposed to pay a tax of 1 medjidieh on each camel he sells.

The Yezidees of the Sinjar are another wild tribe, that only pay their taxes according as the local Government for the time being happens to be strong or weak. For instance, Mattoo, a powerful Yezidee Sheikh, has paid no taxes for the last three years. This year, as there happens to be some soldiers in the town of Sinjar, he is anxious to pay and make good arrears. Similarly with the other wild tribes.

Races' Tribes.—The Deir or Zor Sandjak is essentially an Arab district. On the other hand its north-west, north, and north-east boundaries form a line of demarcation beyond which are several races and religions. East of the Sinjar the Kurd puts in an appearance. In some villages Arabic is spoken, and in others Kurdish. Along the northern line, at Orfa, Nisibin, &c., there is a mixture of Arab, Turk, Armenian, Jew, and Kurd. To the north-west the Turkoman is to be found, in villages west of the Euphrates.

Arabs (Classification).—The Arabs may be divided into two classes: nomads, or Bedouins; Fellahs, or tillers of the soil.

Bedouins.—The Bedouin Arabs may again be divided into two big tribes, *i.e.*, those who dwell west of the Euphrates, or Anezeh; those to the east, or Shammar. These two tribes are hereditary enemies, and are constantly at war with each other, and making "ghazus" or raids into each other's territories. Both emigrated years ago from Arabia. Many reasons have been given for this emigration. They may be summed up into security in Arabia and internal dissensions. According to Faris, a Shammar Sheikh, the Shammar were the first to set an example of emigrating. He states that his grandfather came from Arabia with some thirty followers, and, according to tradition, carrying a wooden table or plate on which seven roasted camels could be laid, and at which 120 men could sit.

The Jibour, a powerful tribe, were at that time masters of the country. They, hearing of this huge plate, agreed that there must be more of the strangers left behind, and proposed to discourage any further emigration by slaughtering the new-comers. Whatever the reason may have been, this proposal was not carried out.

Seeing that he was left unmolested, and that the country was fertile, the Sheikh sent news of his success, along with a specimen of the grass, to his kindred, with the result that the Shammar begin to pour into the country, and eventually got the upper hand of the Jibour. The Anezeh, according to Faris, followed later, and were invited into the country by the Jibour, to serve as a counterpoise to the Shammar. I give the story for what it is worth, but that the emigration is still going on is proved by my meeting a tribe of Shammar under a Sheikh called Bender west of the Euphrates, who had only come up from Nejd within the last two years. In reply to my question, why he had come, he said he had quarrelled with Ibn Raschid, the present ruler of Nejd. He said I was the first European they had yet seen. It is related of his people, although the story is probably untrue, that when they saw the Euphrates several of them, never having seen a deep river, walked in and were drowned.

Numbers of Bedouins.—As for the respective number of the Anezeh and Shammar, I should be afraid to hazard an opinion. That they are tolerably numerous is unquestionable. How far the Turkish estimate of them is correct it is hard to say. Any number the Bedouins themselves say is very open to doubt. They talk of their numbers in the most reckless fashion. So far as I am able to judge, the Shammar are less numerous than the Anezeh, but, on the other hand, the Shammar are less divided than the Anezeh.

Bedouin Tribes visited.—In the country on the right bank of the Euphrates I have visited the following Bedouin tribes:—

In the desert to the east of Aleppo and Hama, "Fedaan," "Khyssa" (dumb), "Sebaye," all Anezeh tribes. The "Khyssa" are a sub-section of the "Fedaan." In the desert east of Homs: The "Oulad Ali," the "El Heseni." These are small tribes, estimated at only a few hundred tents. They are Anezeh. In the winter they carry the Sultan's present and convoy travellers to Mecca, for which services they receive a subsidy from the Government. They were the earliest Anezeh emigrants. To the north of Soklne, near Fayibi, a Shammar tribe under Sheikh Bender.

On the left bank of the Euphrates, between that river and the Sinjar, I met a section of the Shammar, under Faris, and to the north of the Sinjar another section under Meghel. The latter camp was almost empty, all the able-bodied men being away on a raid against the Anezeh.

Bedouin Character.—The Bedouin has so often been described by experienced travellers that it may almost appear presumptuous in me to give an opinion, more especially as my visit was such a short one. It is, therefore, with considerable diffidence that I venture to state my experience.

Being unrivilized the Arab has no idea of hiding his faults. Although quite illiterate he does not want for capacity. Like all Easterns he is of a suspicious temperament, and always thinks more is meant than is really said. He is also jealous and envious, and in the distribution of presents great care must be taken not to offend him. He has no idea of work in the Western sense of the word, although capable of great endurance, as witness the hardships he undergoes when making raids. As for truthfulness, I do not suppose he is better than his neighbours. He is unquestionably hospitable, but frequently his hospitality appears tinged with an *arrière-pensée* of what he may get in return. He has little, if any, shame in asking for gifts. On several occasions, after giving the customary present, I have been asked for more, and on one occasion, when the present was not forthcoming quite soon enough, I have been reminded that it was expected.

The Bedouin is of a pure and unmixed race, and for that reason, probably, he is essentially a conservative, and centuries appear to leave him unchanged. For the same reason, perhaps, in the matter of intelligence, all are pretty much on the same level, and there is not much difference of character. Among them there is but little difference of rank, and the poorest treats the Sheikh with no greater deference than the wealthiest.

I think there can be but little doubt that the Bedouin, with his primitive and simple life, is happier than many of us, with our complex one. Although we would call him a robber, he is not a blood-thirsty one. I regret to say my stay was not long enough to learn much of his habits and customs, and of the unwritten law of the desert. His laws of hospitality are well known. Having once taken a stranger in, he is bound to give him all needful assistance and protection. An illustration of this law was brought to my notice when stopping with the Shammar. Some time ago a party of Shammar made a raid in the direction of Sohkne; here they heard of a rich caravan going to Tudmor. One of the raiders, however, discovered that two of the travellers had been his guests. Riding up to them he gave them warning, and recommended them to intrust him with any money they had. They did so to the extent of £T. 500. The money was subsequently returned. Their "gazus," or raids, appear more in the light of a game than of a serious enterprise, and it is but seldom any one is seriously hurt. In the division of the booty, there are certain fixed rules that are universally recognized. To become an owner it is necessary for the raider, in the presence of witnesses, to strike the booty with his spear, and in a loud voice to declare possession. The Sheikh, whether or not he has been on the "gazu," always has a claim to a considerable portion of the prize, on the plea that, as the father of the tribe, he has to feed the poor, the aged, and to keep open house. This is frequently a heavy tax on his resources, and some Sheikhs spend large sums on their household expenses. A dinner given by one of these Sheikhs is a wonderful sight. After the chief guests have finished there is a general scramble for the remains. Any one may sit down; as soon as one man leaves another takes his place. At one dinner I counted a succession of guests up to sixty, when I had to give it up in despair. When the older people have finished, the camp children come in to pick up the crumbs.

Although superstitious to a considerable extent, and with a great dread of the "evil eye," the Bedouin is not overburdened by religious feeling. While calling himself a Mahommedan, it is but seldom or never that he is seen at prayers. It is probable that he reverences far more the old patriarchs, Abraham, Jacob, &c., than the Prophet of Islam.

Bedouin Government.—The system of government is purely patriarchal. The Sheikh has a certain authority, but by no means an unlimited one. His authority depends a good deal on his personal character; some Sheikhs having much more influence in their tribes than others. The dignity of Sheikh is, so far as I know, hereditary; but in cases where the eldest son is considered for some reason unfit, he is passed over, and one of his brothers or near relations appointed. Where there are several Sheikhs, all belonging to the same family, a Bedouin can transfer his allegiance from one to the other.

Desert Politics.—With the exception of the long-standing quarrel between the Anezeh and Shammar, the politics of the desert are continually changing. Tribes are friends one day and enemies the next. The chief causes of quarrel are blood feuds, petty jealousies, disputes about favourite grazing grounds, &c. When I was with the Anezeh a bitter feud was going on between Jedaan, Sheikh of the Fedaan, and Nawaff Ibn Gayshish, Sheikh of the Khryssa. In the quarrel the Nawaff was backed up by the powerful Sebaye tribe. Raids or "gazus" were continually going on between the two parties. The causes of quarrel were: A difference about the division of certain moneys; a claim to some favourite grazing ground; Fedaan's claim to be considered head Sheikh on the strength of his having been appointed by the Turkish Government. Similarly there is the old standing quarrel between the Sebaye and Roalea for the grazing grounds about Hama. From what I hear, the cupidity of certain Turkish Pashas was the cause of this quarrel. In the same way, on the left bank of the Euphrates, among the Shammar, Sheikh Faris and Sheikh Asi quarrelling about a strip of land along the Zaghajak. Asi is the son of Sheikh Ferhan, who is recognized by the Government as head Sheikh of the Shammar; Faris is Ferhan's brother, &c.

Policy of the Government towards the Bedouin State of Desert.—The general policy of the Government has been not to interfere with the private feuds of the tribes, but, on the contrary, perhaps rather to encourage them. It is only when some Sheikh

becomes exceptionally troublesome that they take the trouble to interfere with him. Some years ago they executed at Mosul Abdul Kérim, a powerful Shammar Sheikh and brother of Faris and Ferhan, who for some time had been carrying fire and sword all through the district. In this treatment of Abdul Kérim the conduct of the Government has been variously criticized, some making out that Abdul Kérim was a very hard-used individual, and others that the Turks were quite right. Whatever were the rights and wrongs of the case, there can be no doubt that the desert was very quiet for some time after. When Midhat Pasha was Vali of Baghdad he originated the policy of subsidizing some of the more powerful Sheikhs and making them responsible for the security of their district. For instance, Ferhan was paid 25,000 piastres per month and Faris 9,000. This policy on the whole was fairly successful. Of late, however, owing to the poverty of the Government, payments have been in some cases discontinued. Amongst others Faris complains of his salary being unpaid. The policy also of making the Sheikh responsible has also been allowed to fall through, as witness the case of Sheikh Ferhan, who receives his salary, although his son Asi has lately been plundering and robbing caravans and tribes of Fellahs.

There can be no doubt that, owing to the present weak and impoverished state of the Turkish Government, the condition of affairs has become somewhat critical, and it is not at all improbable, should an improvement not occur, that the Bedouin may again get the upper hand. It must not be forgotten that it is only since the time Sureya Pasha was Aleppo Vali, that is to say, about eighteen years ago, that the Turk has succeeded in establishing his authority in the Deir district. Previous to that time, although nominally subject, the Arabs almost as far north as Aleppo were practically independent. By degrees the Turk became the master, and before the breaking out of the last war held pretty nearly undisputed sway. Of late, owing to the above causes and the reduction of the garrisons, the authority of the Government has declined. At the same time, it would be easy to exaggerate the dangers of the situation. Isolated, badly armed, and disunited as the Bedouins are, a few hundreds of well-led and well-armed Turkish troops will always get the better of them.

That caravans are often robbed and pillaged is unquestionable; still, I should be inclined to say the dangers incident to a journey through the desert are often greatly exaggerated. Of course, one may have the ill-luck to come across a "gazu," but the desert is wide, and raids are not always occurring. Nothing can be more ludicrous than to watch two parties of travellers viewing each other in the desert. Each takes the other for robbers, guns are got ready, stragglers hurry up, and it is only after considerable delay that the facts of the case are discovered.

Bedouins: Absence of National Aspirations: Dislike of the Turk.—It can be easily fancied that the Bedouin, from his wandering and unsettled mode of life, has few if any national instincts. All he wishes for is freedom to wander and a sufficiency of pasture lands for his herds. As to his feeling towards the Turk and the Government, he, like the majority of the Arabs, views them with mingled feelings of fear, hatred, and contempt, nor is this surprising considering the way he and his brethren are treated. All the woes and miseries of the country are attributed to the failings of the Government and the all-pervading bribery and corruption. The Bedouin, &c., speaks also with contempt of the officials and their plebeian origin; and on one occasion a well-known Sheikh said to me, "You must know that the Bedouin, as a rule, will always join the leader who is on bad terms with the Government." That the Government is fully aware of the general feeling of the Arab population is proved by the slight encouragement, or, rather, discouragement, it has shown to the study of the Arab language, the nervousness it exhibits at strangers travelling through the country, the few appointments that are held by Arabs, &c.

Of foreign nations the English appear best known to the Bedouin. He has a high opinion of their straightforwardness, justice, &c.

Fellah Arabs.—The following are the tribes I have visited: "Hadi-Deen," a powerful tribe scattered in the country to the south of Aleppo; "Aghed-Aat," a powerful tribe along the banks of the Euphrates about Deir; "Jibour," a large tribe on the Khabur River; a number of small tribes between the Sinjar Dagh and Mosul; the "Gergeriye" tribe to the north of the Sinjar Dagh; "Edwan" and "Milli" tribes; large tribes near Viranschehr; "Beni Sejjid," a powerful tribe on the Sejjur River, west of the Euphrates.

Particulars with regard to these Tribes.—These tribes are all cultivators or Fellahs, besides having large herds of sheep and some camels. Many of them are or were powerful. Amongst the most important are the "Hadi-Deen," the "Jibour," the "Aghed-Aat," the "Beni Seyyid." In former days many of them were masters of

the districts they are now in, and carried on war against each other and the Shammar and Anezeh. A Jibour Sheikh told me that in years gone by the town of Deir paid his tribe an annual tax. In power, prosperity, and numbers, many of these tribes have greatly changed for the worse. They all, more or less, complain bitterly of the Turkish rule. Many said that, in the old days under the Bedouin, they were better off; that although he robbed them, he would not allow others to rob them, but that now they were heavily taxed by the Government, besides being robbed by the officials and Bedouins. Many of the members of their tribes have wandered away to towns in hopes of succeeding better there. A Jibour Sheikh told me, had they any confidence in the Government, they could easily reassemble the absentees. Some went so far as to say they were longing for a change of masters, and that they would even welcome the Russians. These tribes are, as a rule, cleaner than the Bedouins. They are also much more religiously inclined, and to see the men at prayers is not unusual.

The Sheikhs of the "Milli" and "Edwam" tribes I had previously met at Sivas, to which place they had been exiled by Abeddin Pasha. During their absence their tribes being without a leader had more or less gone to pieces. Many of these tribes suffered heavily by the famine last year.

Perhaps among these Fellahs there may be some slight feeling of Arab nationality. On one or two occasions I have heard Sheikhs remark what a pity it was the Arabs were so disunited. In character, habits, &c., they are much the same as the Bedouins. They reside in tents all the year. During the midsummer months many change their black tents for a white one. Some are armed with matchlocks; others with spears.

The Chechian of Ras-el-Ain.—The "Chechian" and "Kara Boulak" tribes come from Circassia, where they fought under Shamyl against the Russians. After the latter's defeat, they emigrated into this country, I am told, to the number of 5,000 houses. The majority were settled down in the district of Ras-el-Ain. Like the "Tcherkess" of the present day, they began robbing and plundering, and were one of the principal agents in destroying the prosperity of the Khabour district. The consequence of following this policy was, that, all the Arab tribes, including the Shammar, became their bitter foes. Their numbers are now reduced to some 200 houses, the rest having either been killed or wandered off. They pay no taxes or tithes to the Government, and are good workers in leather.

Yezedees of the Sinjar.—The Yezedees, or devil worshippers, as they are commonly called, are scattered over several districts of Mesopotamia and other provinces of Asiatic Turkey. The inhabitants of the Sinjar Dagh (an isolated range running nearly east and west, and some two or three days' journey to the north of Mosul) nearly all belong to that sect. They are Kurds, and speak the Kurdish language. All are armed with matchlocks, and they are renowned as pedestrians. In physique they are a splendid body of men, and have the making of first-class soldiers. As regards the Turkish Government, they are generally in a semi-rebellious state, and the collection of taxes is both very irregular and uncertain. The Kaimakams, or Turkish Governors, dare not venture among them unless with a strong escort. The Yezedees are said to hate all Mahommedans, and to look upon the killing of a Mahommedan as the best passport to heaven. I made the acquaintance of one of their head Sheikhs. He estimates the number of Yezedees in the mountain at about 2,000 tents. Besides having rows with the Government, they have constant rows amongst themselves. The mountain is renowned for its figs. There are some eighteen villages, four of which are Mahommedan. Between the Sinjar Mountains and Mosul I passed several camps in which the Yezedee and Mahommedan were residing side by side. At Viranschehr, an Arab district, not far from Orfa, there is a tribe of Yezedees (400 tents) under a Sheikh called Mustafa. Near Aleppo are some Yezedees who are said to have become Mahommedan. The head Sheikh of the Yezedees resides near Mosul.

State of the District between the Sinjar and Mosul.—The district between the Sinjar and Mosul has a very bad reputation. There is an extraordinary mixture of races and religions, and rows are of constant occurrence. The inhabitants agree only on one point, and that is, their dislike of the Government. They are a very wild lot of people. It is, however, more than probable that many of the stories of robberies and murders are gross exaggerations. As a specimen of one of these, I was told, when in the camp of a Kurdish Sheikh nine or ten hours from Mosul, that on the road there was a village with such a bad reputation that no one could venture past it without an armed escort. Passing the village next morning we found it deserted.

Jews.—At Mosul, Nisibin, and other places, there is a considerable Jewish

population. They are ignorant of how and when they came into the country. They are mostly poor.

Jacobite and Chaldean Villages.—Near Mardyn are some Christian villages offering, in general, comfort and prosperity, a marked contrast to their Moslem neighbours.

Turkomans.—West of the Euphrates, the district of Borak, stretching from Jerablus north-west to the main trunk road, is inhabited by Turkoman tribes. They say that they came originally from Konia, and were forced to emigrate some 170 years ago in the reign of Sultan Selim. The reason for their having to leave was their unruly and riotous conduct. The first emigration consisted of some 70,000 houses. Four years later a second emigration occurred of 12,000 houses (I question the truth of these figures). They say, also, that some of their people were sent to Bayazid, and others to the district between Damascus and Tiberias. The present is the fifth generation since the emigration. The chief tribes represented are: Kara Koymle, Sherklavi, Kazle, and Gunesh. When they arrived they had a succession of fights with their Arab neighbours, but now they are friends. Recently they have taken to agriculture. In winter they live in houses, and in tents in the summer.

Administration of the Sandjak.—Of the administration of the province it is unnecessary to say much. Like other provinces, it is governed by a Mutessarif, assisted by a Idaré Medjliss. The Mutessarif has been lately dismissed. He belonged to an influential family in Aleppo, and was a fairly intelligent official. Of the Medjliss or Council, like all other Councils, it is very corrupt and inefficient. The Courts, &c., are much the same as in other parts of the Empire. As the district is a wild one the system of complicated European modelled Courts, laws, summons of accused, &c., appear, if possible, more unsuited to the country than in many of the other provinces.

I am told that on one occasion the "Mudai Umum" (Procureur) summoned a powerful Arab Chief to appear before his Court to answer a charge made against him and his tribe of having killed some Chechian years ago.

The Sheikh, of course, snapped his fingers at the summons. It is almost needless to say that the public treasury is almost penniless, and officials, zaptiehs, &c., have not been paid for months.

Formerly there was a considerable military force at Deir and elsewhere to overawe the Arabs. Of late this force has been cut down, with the result that there is a recrudescence of Bedouin plundering.

Many of the officials are unacquainted with Arabic; and in the out districts are more or less nonentities. Perhaps, as Deir is a favourite province to be appointed official in, bribery and corruption may be worse there than elsewhere.

Suggestions towards improving the present state of the Sandjak.—So much has been already written on the topic of reforms, that further reference to them would appear unnecessary. What has been already so often said about the Courts, their delays, intricacy, and general unfitness, applies with, perhaps, greater force to this sandjak, where the distances are so great and the people so ignorant and uncivilized. To attempt to judge and punish Bedouins and Kurds for breaking laws intended for civilized communities is both absurd and unfair. As for the officials, many of them are quite unfit for their posts; many of them are merely the scrapings of the Constantinople offices, and are neither in appearance nor character calculated to impress the native. Probably it is the first time the man has left Constantinople, where he has been employed as pipe-bearer or bath-boy to some Pasha. Another point that strikes the visitor is the huge and unwieldy size of the sandjak, and the few troops that occupy it. At first sight it appears absurd why places such as Viranschehr, distant from Deir some seven or eight days, should not be incorporated into the Orfa Sandjak, distant only some eighteen hours. The reason given is that it is considered advisable to put all the districts through which the Bedouin wanders under one command. The reason appears a fairly good one, but I question its being really feasible, the distances and difficulty of communication being so great. However, whether the Government decide or not to diminish the size of the sandjak, all local authorities agree on the absolute necessity of making it independent of Aleppo. Deir is distant some eight days from that town, and there is no telegraph. Hence the delays are interminable, and, in military matters, where promptitude is everything, fatal. The Governor of Deir, from his central position, must also be far better acquainted with what is necessary to keep the Arabs quiet than an official at Aleppo. More troops are also urgently wanted, with a good supply of mules, for flying columns. Should the country continue in its present defenceless, and the Treasury in its impecunious, condition, it is very probable that the Bedouin may again get the upper hand, and bad

as is the Turkish Government, its collapse, unless some other Power is prepared to take its place, would only further aggravate the present unhappy state of the country.

Arab Question.—It is impossible to be resident for any time in this country without becoming aware that, sooner or later, as the disruption of the Turkish Empire progresses, the question what is to be done with the Arab will make itself felt. That there is now no love lost between the Turk and the Arab is, I think, evident; but at the same time, it must not be forgotten that they are both members of one religion, and a religion which is perhaps more inclined to fanaticism than any other. I think that there cannot also be a doubt that as the Turk loses ground in Europe he will try to strengthen his hold on Arabia. Whether it is for the world's advantage that he should succeed would appear doubtful. The Turk, judging him by his past history, has often been distinguished as a warrior, but never as a civiliser. "Where the Sultan's horse has once trod grass never grows," is an old Turkish proverb. That a Power unfriendly to progress and Western ideas should become paramount in Arabia and in the Holy Places would be a misfortune. The Arab, on the other hand, is far more intelligent, less narrow-minded, and more favourable to new ideas. In the days of his rule the country was fairly prosperous and well governed. The remains of bridges, roads, castles, &c., indicate better times. In literature, architecture, and science he has also been distinguished, which certainly cannot be said of the Turk. To us, as rulers of a large Indian-Mahommedan population, the question whether we are to have at Mecca a Power inclined to progress and not unfavourable to Western ideas, or the reverse, is of vital importance.

Euphrates Valley Navigation.—Midhat Pasha, when Vali of Bagdad, started the idea of running a line of steamers on the Euphrates. The scheme, however, was got up in a half-hearted sort of way. The steamer still continues to make one or two trips each year, but she is badly commanded and managed.

I am informed on very good authority that the chief difficulties in the way of navigation are between Hit and Anah, and consist of rocks, rapids, rocky shallows, remains of old bridges, mill-dams, and "naouras," or loose stone walls built at an angle across the river to catch the water for irrigation purposes. The estimate for making a clear waterway through these difficulties is put at 70,000*l.* Some dredges would also be necessary to keep a channel between Anah and Meskené. The steamers should be of steel, with a draught not exceeding 3 feet, length not above 100 feet, and with a still-water speed of 12 or 14 knots. Petroleum might be used for fuel. Impure petroleum is now to be found at Hit, and were wells sunk there is little doubt that large supplies of a better quality would be forthcoming.

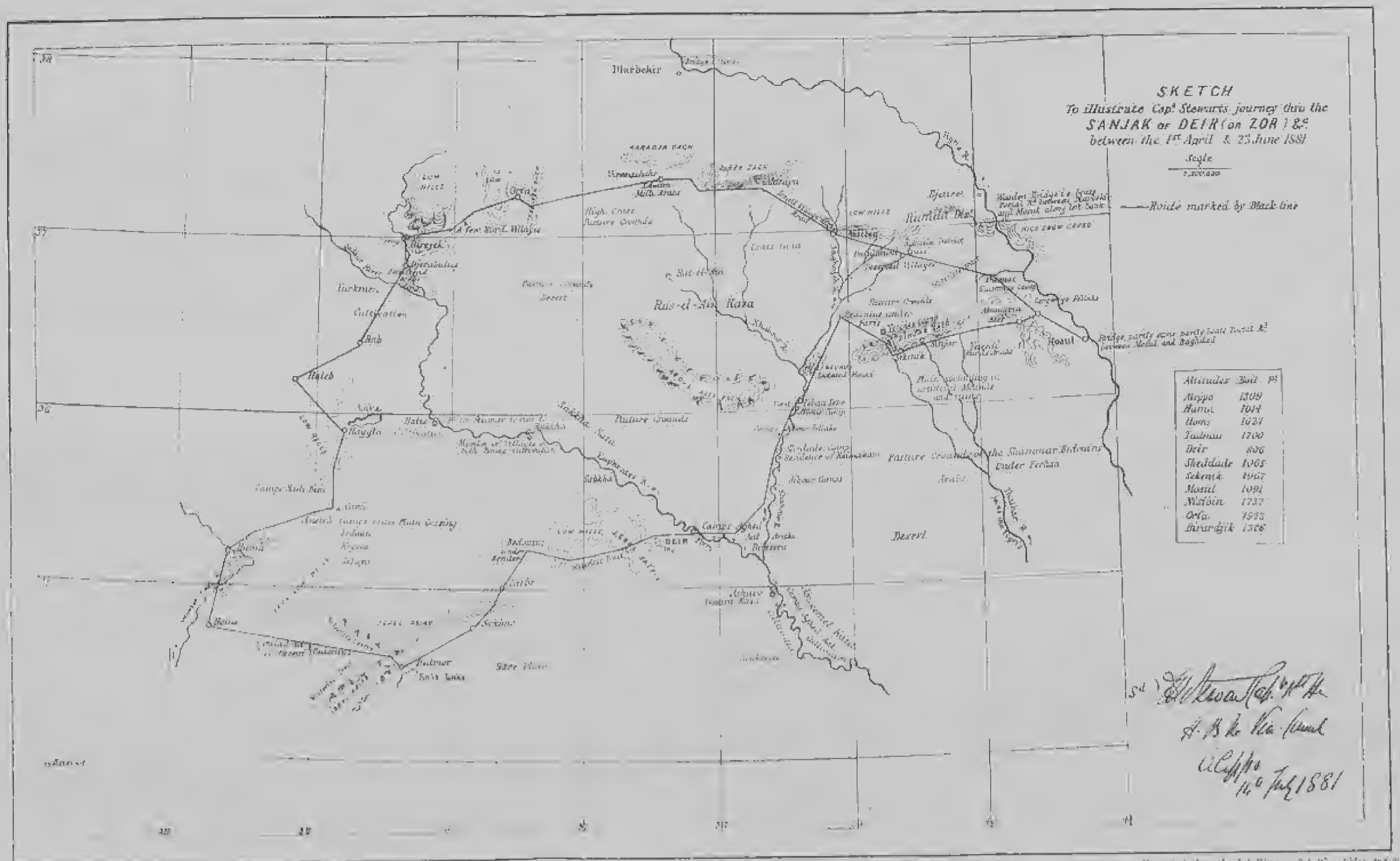
With such boats the run-down stream from Balis (point of the river nearest Aleppo) and Seglawiyeh (point nearest Bagdad) would be three days, up stream six days. The distance between Seglawiyeh and Bagdad is 65 kilom. A railway could be easily and cheaply built between these two towns, the country being perfectly open and level. All that is required are a few small bridges and embankments.

I am also informed there is a mine of fairly good lignite near Deir. This navigation scheme might be worth trying. It would unquestionably greatly benefit the country.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART, *Captain, 11th Hussars,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Aleppo, July 14, 1881.

Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador,
Constantinople.



Intelligence Dist. No 64.

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Appendix No. 1.

Revenue and Expenditure of Deir Sandjak.

Formerly, before the sandjak was reduced in size, its total average revenue was estimated at £ T. 70,000. Of late years it has lost by curtailment of territory revenue to the amount of £ T. 40,000, so that now its annual income, including the sheep tax (£ T. 7,000), does not exceed £ T. 30,000.

Its expenditure is about £ T. 30,000, estimated as follows :—

	£ T.
1. Salaries of officials	7,000
2. Gen d'armerie	13,000
3. Garrison (Nizam)	8,000
4. Secret service fund	1,500
Total	29,500

The Gens d'Armerie is put down at 390 men, of whom 290 are mounted. This is the paper strength. The actual strength is probably far less.

The garrison is estimated at 550 infantry, of whom 200 are mounted on mules. At present the far larger proportion of these men, although charged to Deir, are actually serving about Aleppo.

It is evident from the above that the sandjak, after defraying all expenses, has little or no balance to transmit.

Of late years, owing to the constant call for money at Constantinople, the Dier Government has had to forward large sums to Aleppo. The result of this policy is that Aleppo now owes the Deir treasury £ T. 10,000, and that, pending its repayment, the salaries of zaptiehs, soldiers, officials, &c., are left unpaid.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART, *Captain, 11th Hussars,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Appendix No. 2.

Anezeh Bedouins.

List of the Anezeh Bedouins in the Deir Sandjak and in Syria; Names of the Sheikhs; Number of Tents, &c.

I. The Anezeh about Aleppo are called Fedaan. Their head Sheikh is Jedaan. They are divided into two branches, called the (*a*) Damajid; (*b*) Vild.

(*a.*) *The Damajid.*—Head Sheikh, Dham. Number of tents, 2,500. Divided into 8 sub-sections or families, each under a minor Sheikh—

1. El Kryssa.
2. Awwaad.
3. Jedaa(e).
4. Ghubain.
5. Jaffall.
6. Melhoot.
7. Majatra.
8. Ubeses.

(*b.*) *Vild.*—Head Sheikh, Jedaan. Number of tents, 2,000. Divided into 5 sub-sections or families, each under a minor Sheikh—

1. Ajajera.
2. Sare.
3. Muhalt.
4. Shumeylât.
5. Russ.

II. The Anezeh round Hama are called Sebaa. Head Sheikh, Betayen. Divided into two branches, called (*a*) Buteynât; (*b*) Il Ubadi—

(*a.*) *Buteynât.*—Head Sheikh, Buteyen. Number of tents, 2,500. Broken up into 12 families, each under a Sheikh—

1. Mowaheep.
2. Gomussa.
3. (E)Umeyra.
4. Hamadi.
5. Magarba.
6. Rassalleen.
7. Shuféyeh.
8. Uglan.
9. El Jasim.
10. El Mesoud.
11. Suweydé.
12. Homeshath.

(*b.*) *Il Ubadi.*—Head Sheikh, Ibu Hidaib. Number of tents, 4,000. 13 sub-sections or families—

1. Kuwezath.
2. Mazari'h.
3. Musaifa.
4. Khatamara.
5. Il Dawam.
6. Il Muweneh.
7. Jelladan.
8. Demakidi(e).
9. Ubedat.
10. Il (E)Urufa.
11. Irmagh.
12. Il Messeka.
13. El Ussara.

III. The Aneseh in the Hauran, Damascus, and about Homs, are called Jellass. Divided into two branches, (a) Roalla; (b) Dauamieh.

(a.) *Roalla.*—Head Sheikh, Ibn Iasir. Number of tents, 3,500. 19 sub-sections or families—

1. Jellass.	11. Obedeolah.
2. Meshour.	12. Rumeh.
3. Faraje.	13. El Suwalim.
4. Dôlta.	14. Jendel.
5. Sha(e)lan.	15. Belfayis.
6. Aslaj(o)a.	16. Nur(e)it.
7. Mujel.	17. El Mannak.
8. El Ali.	18. El Mamalbil.
9. Hudebnie.	19. El Talyar.
10. El Mujet.	

(b.) *Dauamieh.*—Head Sheikh, Faris. Number of tents, 3,500. 8 sub-sections—

1. El Hussani.	5. Owlad-Ali.
2. El Shamo.	6. El (E)Uteifant.
3. Nessaligh.	7. Weld Muhammed.
4. Hajaj.	8. El Seshan.

Shammar Bedouins.

These Bedouin Arabs are to be found in the district extending south from Sejireh on the Tigris towards Bagdad. They have four head Sheikhs: (1) Fechan Pasha; (2) Fatis; (3) Abdul Rezak; (4) Smar-il-Bedjan. Number of tents, 6,000. They are divided into 32 families or sub-sections—

1. El Mejfil.	17. El Ubeyyid.
2. El Khrysan.	18. El Zaid.
3. El Sebaa.	19. Slojara.
4. El (E)Ullan.	20. El Khaledast.
5. El Ussecod.	21. El Zara'n.
6. El Khamir.	22. El (E)Uweligh.
7. El Farra'h.	23. Abdi.
8. El Delmyeeni.	24. Baggarat.
9. El Zaldé.	25. Chotara.
10. El Muttoyir.	26. Jeddi.
11. El Amoat.	27. El Eglâma.
12. Tejaldéf.	28. El Sebaigih.
13. Yeglaiyilé.	29. El Subbi.
14. El Sabit.	30. El Aslain.
15. El Ureyyif.	31. El Jelesh.
16. Beheamat.	32. El Turit.

Besides the above nomads, individual members of a tribe called the Kleb ("a dog") are frequently met scattered about the desert. This Kleb tribe is said by many to be in a tribe of gipsies, and to have wandered originally from India. The people are very quiet and inoffensive. They are generally sportsmen, and wear clothes made of deer-skin; they are also the best guides through the desert. Their women are renowned for their beauty.

In the vicinity of Tadmor and Sokhna there are about 100 tents belonging to this tribe. They own 5,000 sheep and 700 white donkeys.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART, *Captain, 11th Hussars,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

List of the Fellah Arabs in the Deir Sandjak who pay Taxes; their Names, Numbers, &c.

Houses and Tents.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Camels.	Mares.	Stallions.	Mules.	Donkeys.	Name of Tribe.	Locality.
2,300	20,000	100	..	250	300	500	2,500	Abu Serai, Abu Khabour, Baggara	Deir Kasa.
2,100	35,000	1,500	..	300	200	200	3,000	Alaalli, Vilal ..	Rikkha Nahiyé.
1,300	10,000	500	..	150	250	350	1,100	Abu Ghammal ..	Bussira Nahiyé.
500	6,000	150	..	100	150	150	1,000	Shuaygyit	Athara Nahiyé.
700	10,000	450	..	60	100	150	150	Abu Kewel	Abu Kewel Nahiyé.
1,000	15,000	2,000	..	200	350	50	1,000	Sabkha	Sabkha Nahiyé.
400	5,000	..	1,000	200	100	..	400	Anaiz	Jebel Abiad, near Tadmor.
800	1,500	50	1,500	200	50	..	500	Sokhna	Sokhna.
300	500	100	1,000	100	50	..	200	Tudmor	Tudmor.
9,600	102,500	5,150	3,500	1,360	1,650	1,400	9,850		

List of Fellah Arabs in the Aleppo Vilayet, exclusive of the Deir Sandjak.

Tents or Houses.	Sub-sections or Families.	Sheep.	Camels.	Cattle.	Tribe's Name.	Sheikh's Name.	Locality.
614	19	65,000	1,000	..	Hasdi-Deen	Salit-il-Cherikh	Around Aleppo.
220	3	3,000	800	..	Sibeh	Fares-il-Shubet	"
30	1	5,000	150	..	Gayyar	Mohammed-el-Ghatuff ..	"
50	1	1,000	150	..	Owlad Ali	Jasim-il-Meli	"
210	2	8,000	600	..	Abu Khamis	Sheikh Shihab	"
45	1	2,000	100	..	Gazanta	Sheikh-il-Kesl	"
264	9	2,000	100	220	Ameret	Mohamed-el-Hasen ..	Jezere, Mesudiyé, and Kilis.
250	3	1,000	60	200	Hamakha	Eyoob-il-Mustafa ..	Bab, Aintab, Rihaniyé, Biredjik.
50	4	1,600	50	100	Ghaneylen	Tema-il-Mahmood ..	Bab, Kilis, Biredjik.
220	2	1,000	100	200	Mojadeni	Hassan-il-Sheikh ..	Biredjik, Aintab, Kilis, and Rihaniyé.
110	2	500	40	100	Hasan	Khader-il-Hasan ..	Aintab, Kilis Rihaniyé.
150	2	1,300	150	100	(E)Hejal	Ismick	Kilis and Rihaniyé.
150	2	350	30	100	Mesheshfé	Feraje-il-Achmet ..	Chiftlik Humayoun.
150	3	1,200	50	200	Abu Rouné	Khalaf-il-Ghanem ..	Bab, Kilis.
100	2	1,000	20	150	Shivanla (Kurd) ..	Jumaan Hussein ..	Jebel Seman and Kilis.
90	1	1,000	20	150	Tekmeyli (Turkman) ..	Mustafa Pasha	Bab and Aintab.
80	2	1,000	20	200	Digher Khara (Turkman)	Eyoub-il-Kelch	Bab and Kilis.
50	3	1,000	20	100	Beni-Sayidi	Jasim-il-Ali	"
60	2	1,200	60	100	Nayim	Issa Aru	"
50	2	600	20	150	(E)Adwan	Fez-il-Ali	Idlib.
200	2	1,200	50	100	Baghara	Mohammed-il-Abbad ..	Idlib, Bab, Aleppo.
25	1	250	5	40	Beni (E)Ijel ..	Issa-il-Mahmood ..	Aintab, Kilis, Aleppo.
200	4	1,000	10	150	Abu Sultan	Mahmood	Biredjik, Bab.
25	1	750	20	..	Ghaleyat	Ghosi	Jezeur Shoghul and Aatesha.
35	1	1,200	100	60	Beni (E)In	Achmed-il-Sali	Jezeur Shoghul (near Aatesha).
35	1	500	10	50	Shamma-il-Gharbi ..	Ali El-(E)Is	" "
35	1	1,000	10	60	Sibeh-at	Hajl Omer	Idlib.
30	1	500	..	40	Abu (E)Attieh ..	Ahmed-il-Osman ..	Bab.
70	2	1,100	20	110	Beni Suwedi	Musa Hasan	Bab, Kilis.
45	1	500	20	70	Abu (E)Ajaz	Dahir Ghadru	Bab.
45	1	500	15	50	Abu Nasser	Mohamed-il-Ibrahim ..	Kilis.
45	1	500	15	50	Abu Mesheh	Achmet-il-Ali	Bab, Kilis.
65	1	600	15	60	Abu Sheikh	Hasan Mattar	"
15	1	1,000	10	100	Abu Sheikh	Jumaa-il-Hasan	Bab, Rihaniyé, Kilis.
100	3	1,500	50	220	Beni Jamel	Sheikh Abdallah	Kilis.
35	1	500	10	60	Jeyadat	Mohamed Shabla	Jezeur Shoghul.
7	1	40	2	9	Babayka	Mustafa Jubar	Chiftlik Humayoun.
65	1	100	10	50	Sughbat	Mustafa Zeth	"
23	1	40	6	10	Huweret	Mhiem	Biredjik, Aintab, Kilis.
80	2	100	10	200	Kais Sheikhali ..	Yussef-el-Suleiman ..	Idlib Kaza.
45	1	100	15	20	Mahabish	Abdel-Ahmed	Bab.
20	1	60	6	15	Sesi Seath	Sheikh-il-Hussein ..	Around Aleppo.
12	1	40	5	20	Beraish	Hussein-il-Gammar ..	"
25	1	100	15	100	Shabie	Sheikh-il-Abbas ..	"
15	1	60	3	8	Shafir Ocemagh ..	Hussein-il-Eef	Hama.
38	1	1,500	15	15	H (E) Hebat	Achmet-il-Hussein ..	Aintab, Biredjik, Rihaniyé.
25	1	200	15	10	H (E) Leseth	Mahmoud-il-Musa ..	Idlib.
45	1	70	10	20	Beni	Jeseb-il-Hassan ..	Bab.
60	1	600	10	60	Beni Zeit	Sheikh Yesim	Aleppo.
35	2	200	10	50	Herbiath	Jelidwar Rebair	Aleppo.
25	1	500	10	30	Abu Ghammal ..	Abdallah-il-Ghaiar ..	Aleppo.
50	2	200	15	60	Abu Dess	Gengis-Sheikh	Biredjik.
18	1	40	6	20	Kashidé	Sheikh Musa	Chiftlik Humayoun.
11	1	40	5	30	Veggalli	Issa-Ghadder	"
30	1	100	10	70	Salabi	Mohamed-el-Bakri ..	Bab.
17	1	25	..	25	M. Iabusi	Mohamed-il-Hassan ..	Chiftlik Humayoun.
10	1	60	1	15	(E)Mesheht	Nassir-il-Ali	Jezeur Shoghul.
3	1	25	1	10	Jeseenath	Sheikh	Idlib.
6	2	250	30	150	Kasej	Bassah-l-Sheikh ..	Bab.
30	1	150	10	60	Mesheat	Omar-il-Nare	Chiftlik Humayoun.
28	1	50	6	10	Jeshet	Sahin-il-Hebri	Kilis and Rihaniyé.
12	1	20	5	15	Kanbaz	Osman	Kilis, Aleppo.
10	1	30	1	15	Klimeefra	Beri Tahan	Biredjik.
150	3	1,500	40	200	Tefeyil-Malik ..	Sheikh Abdallah ..	Beb, Rihaniyé.
40	1	40	6	50	Ahmed	Sheikh Abdallah ..	Aintab, Rihaniyé.
35	1	200	10	75	(E)Obe	Mohammed Pasha ..	Kilis, Aleppo.
45	2	150	15	65	(E)Ijelat	Hussein-il-Ali	Bab.
40	1	300	10	50	Serun	Derwish-il-Shahil ..	Kilis, Aleppo.
30	1	500	12	50	Abu Asl	Nassif Abu-Diab ..	Biredjik.
45	1	500	10	80	Beni Nuf	Ahmed-il-Molla	Kilis.
25	1	60	5	40	Beni Asl	Abdoolla	Biredjik.
18	1	80	5	40	Hadil-Deen	Hamza-il-Hasadi ..	Bab.
55	2	200	10	65	Hamdoun	Mohammed Suleiman ..	Idlib.
10	1	50	2	8	Hussaidi-il-Diab ..	Hussaidi-il-Diab ..	Kilis.
6	1	200	2	..	Khuneedé	Ureyyid-il-Mustafa ..	Bab.
60	1	500	10	100	Hadjaj	Jasim	Sarug.
55	1	300	15	100	Abu Jerain	Salfo	Ilbeghlu.
16	1	200	5	25	Shaib	Sellum-il-Milli	Rihaniyé.
5	1	20	2	10	Mastura	Jumail-Mutter	

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Tents of Houses.	Sub-sections or Families.	Sheep.	Camels.	Cattle.	Tribe's Name.	Sheikh's Name.	Locality.
7	1	25	2	10	Ayadi	Ahmed-il-Hamadi ..	Bab.
50	2	150	15	10	Mallak-il-Hussein ..	..	"
12	1	..	..	..	Ibn Shahadi	..	Aleppo.
20	1	80	3	25	Jasem-il-Hamed	..	"
10	1	30	3	15	Selkum-il-Kreiben ..	..	Jibeghlu.
10	1	50	4	15	Sheikh-il-Hamad ..	..	Kilis.
15	1	500	6	30	Ibrahim-il-Ali	..	Chiftlik Humayoun.
16	1	100	3	20	Mohammed Sheikh ..	..	Bab.
16	1	300	4	15	Ali Shehadi	..	Jibeghlu.
65	2	500	15	80	Hilfeh-il-Beker	..	Bab.
150	3	3,000	90	150	Mohammed Nofal ..	..	Ammar Zeddeed.
110	2	1,500	80	400	Sheikh Yamr	..	Chiftlik Humayoun.
10	1	120	2	10	Hussein-il-Ali	..	Antakia.
25	1	100	8	60	Hassan-il-Noury ..	..	Idlib.
30	1	400	8	40	Mohamed-il-Hussein ..	..	Kilis.
255	6	5,000	1,500	..	Mehdi	Mahmood Beg	Scattered all over the vilayet.
6,124	160	134,855	6,031	6,261			

N.B.—This list is worked up as far as possible to date, and the information as to the tribes, their numbers, &c., is derived from the best sources available. It is probable that within a certain margin the return is fairly correct. Owing to the impossibility of pronouncing the Arabic "ghain" (ع) in English, I have shown the letter in parentheses.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART, *Captain, 11th Hussars, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.*

Aleppo, July 12, 1881.

No. 41.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 643.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 1, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Sir C. Wilson, reporting that a census of the Sivas Vilayet is now being made by General Hadji Ahmet Pasha. Sir C. Wilson suggests that the motive of this cension may be to show the relative number of Christians and Moslems in the vilayet in connection with questions recently raised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Sivas, July* 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a census of the Sivas Vilayet is now being made by Brigadier-General Hadji Ahmet Pasha, the Military Commandant of Sivas, and the officers under his orders.

The census returns are intended to show not only the numbers of the various races and religious sects, but the amount of land held by each person, and the number of oxen, sheep, goats, &c., which he possesses.

No one appears to know the object of the census, but it may possibly be connected with the questions which have been raised respecting the relative number of the Moslems and Christians in this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

[This should be read before No. 41, page 66.]

No. 40*.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 635.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 1, 1881.

BEFORE repairing to this post Her Majesty's Government impressed upon me, with great earnestness, the desirability of inducing the Ottoman Government to inaugurate, without delay, the series of reforms in Armenia, which the Treaty obligations of Turkey as well as its obvious interests alike demanded.

I have already informed your Lordship that at my first audience with the Sultan I brought this important subject to his notice, and entreated him to give it his most serious attention, and that His Majesty replied that he was quite alive to the necessities of the situation, and that he rejoiced to think that, being now released from the distressing preoccupations entailed by the late war and its consequences, he would be at liberty to turn to the more congenial and pleasing task of promoting the internal good government and prosperity of his realm.

I have also taken an early opportunity of pressing the same considerations on the attention of his Highness Said Pasha, the Prime Minister. I reminded him that, desirable and necessary as was the friendship and good-will of England to Turkey, as he himself had admitted, and anxious as Her Majesty's Government might be to maintain the most cordial relations with the Sublime Porte, a really good understanding would be impossible as long as the public conscience of the British nation was shocked and scandalized by the deplorable accounts of outrage, murder, oppression, and misgovernment (especially where Christian populations were concerned) which day by day poured into the European Embassies from every Consular centre in Asia. Even if their statesmen desired it on political grounds, the English people would not allow its Government to become close friends with Turkey under such circumstances. Nothing now was hidden or unknown; every act of wickedness or cruelty committed in the wilds of Armenia, or the recesses of the Taurus, was sure, sooner or later, to get into the newspapers; the paragraph would be read, four-and-twenty hours afterwards, in every hamlet and cottage in Great Britain, and thus a public opinion was engendered hostile to the Ottoman Government, which neither policy nor even self-interest could control. Your future relations with England, therefore, I said depend upon your determination and ability to introduce those reforms to which you have pledged yourselves, and failing which no man can predict the event. Her Majesty's Government are sincerely anxious to see the Turkish Empire strong and prosperous; but the strength and prosperity of a nation are founded on its wealth, and no people can accumulate wealth when life and property are insecure, when the administration is incompetent and corrupt, the Tribunals venal, and justice unattainable. In saying this, his Highness must remember, I was merely using general terms. The foregoing description might or might not be applicable to parts of Turkey, but, so far as it was applicable, so far were the consequences I had indicated inevitable.

I concluded by an express reference to Armenia, and besought his Highness, as I had already done the Sultan, to give a preliminary proof of the good faith and loyal intentions of the Turkish Government with regard to the question of reforms, by sending into that province, armed with ample powers and an extended jurisdiction, some able administrator, whose character and antecedents would be a pledge to Europe that until a permanent scheme of local self-government could be elaborated the miserable populations, whose existence was rendered unendurable through the prevailing anarchy, might find peace and security under the personal protection of a just, wise, upright, and therefore true representative of the Sovereign.

Your Lordship will thus perceive that I have not delayed pressing upon the Porte the necessity of at once taking up the great question of provincial reforms, but I fear that the representations I have made can only be regarded as a tentative effort towards the accomplishment of a very arduous task, which will require the conjunction of many favourable circumstances, as well as the strenuous assistance of my colleagues, to carry through.

Unfortunately, I can count upon neither at the present moment. During the few weeks which have elapsed since my arrival, the Sultan has been so engrossed by his anxieties regarding the recent State trials, that it has been found hopeless to engage his attention upon any other subject, and there is an evident conviction in the minds

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of the agents of some of the Powers, which is, perhaps, well founded, that it would be imprudent to open the Armenian question until the evacuation of the ceded territory in Greece and the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier have been completed.

Moreover, we are now in the month of Ramazan, which is an unfavourable season for doing business at the Porte, while the absence of three of the Ambassadors imports a certain amount of languor into the concerted action of the foreign Representatives.

Under these circumstances, I have thought it advisable to concentrate my efforts, for the time being, on an endeavour to obtain the removal from their posts of the Vali of Diarbekir and the Mutessarif of Bayazid, the two authorities in Greater Armenia who are chiefly responsible, as I learn from Consul Trotter, for the unsatisfactory condition of that province. Both Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, the Minister of the Interior, and the Prime Minister, have admitted the shortcomings of these officers, and have shown an inclination to recommend their dismissal to the Sultan. Beyond this, and the earnest reiteration, as occasion serves, both to the Sultan and to the Porte, of my previous representations, little, I fear, can be done for the present; but your Lordship may rest assured that no effort shall be spared, and no opportunity missed upon my part, to press forward, with resolution and pertinacity, the solution of the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 42.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 642. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 1, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Colonel Wilson, in which he describes the feelings of the Armenian population in Eastern Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 20. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sivas, July 15, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a telegram which I have forwarded to your Excellency this day, with reference to the last paragraph of my despatch No. 17 of the 6th instant.

Since writing that despatch I have received a copy of Lieutenant Bennet's No. 14 of the 7th June last, in which he describes the state of Zeitoun as very bad and somewhat critical. It is impossible to say when affairs at Zeitoun may come to a crisis, and under these circumstances I thought that your Excellency might wish to keep Lieutenant Bennet at Marash, where he would be near that place, instead of moving him to Sivas during my absence.

During the last twelve months a restless feeling and impatience under what they call Turkish oppression has been very noticeable amongst the Armenians of Eastern Anatolia. I had hoped that the settlement of the Greek question would have had a pacifying effect, but fear that some of the measures taken by the Local Government in this vilayet, as well as in that of Aleppo, have served rather to increase than allay the existing excitement.

Since my return to Sivas I have impressed upon the leading Armenians the necessity of doing nothing which could in any way prejudice the Turkish Government against them, and of trusting to the action of the European Powers for the removal of such of their grievances as were well founded.

I may add that the Armenians appear to be much pleased with the statements made by Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons on the 24th June last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 43.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 643.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 1, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 510 of the 27th June last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed by Vice-Consul Everett to Major Trotter, reporting the arrival of Sheikh Obeidullah at Trebizond, *en route* for Constantinople, and also the appointment of new Russian and Italian Consular officers at Erzeroum.

The nomination of an Italian Consul in Armenia appears to be unusual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, July* 15, 1881.

I BEG to inform you that Sheikh Obeidullah, accompanied by Suleiman Pasha and Ahmet Pasha, has passed through Erzeroum *en route* for Constantinople.

I understand that throughout the journey from Van he met with an ovation from the Mahommedans, both Turks and Kurds, who flocked in crowds to greet him, many falling on their hands and knees and kissing the feet of his horse.

On his arrival here he was received by the Vali in person and a large crowd of officials and notables. During his stay no opportunity has been lost by the authorities of doing him homage. I should say that the influence possessed by this man over the Kurdish population, and, indeed, over all Moslems in this country, must be unbounded.

Colonel Dennet, of the Russian Staff, took over the duties of the Consulate-General from M. Obermüller on the 9th ultimo.

M. Lavini, late a doctor in the Turkish service, has been appointed Consular Agent for the Italian Government, whose subjects have hitherto been under the protection of France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 44.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 644.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 1, 1881.

WITH reference to my previous despatch of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Biliotti, reporting the arrival of Sheikh Obeidullah at Trebizond, and his departure thence for Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Trebizond, July* 25, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Kurdish Sheikh Obeidullah arrived here on the 22nd instant, under a small escort of cavalry, accompanied by Suleiman Pasha and Ahmed Pasha, both Aides-de-camp of the Sultan, the former of whom, on returning from Persia, whither he had gone with the Shah's uncle, had orders to proceed also to Kurdistan for this special purpose.

The Sheikh left yesterday for Constantinople on board the packet-steamer "Georgie," together with his brother-in-law, Sheikh Hassan, and a few attendants. He conveys a few horses as a present to the Sultan.

The local authorities and all the Mussulmans of Trebizond met Sheikh Obeidullah on the road, while a good number of Christians likewise turned out to witness his arrival, which was not imposing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 45.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 645. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 1, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 440 of the 2nd June last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Acting Consul-General Dickson, reporting on the inquiries which have been made by the Sublime Porte respecting the object of Captain de Torey's recent visits to Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to the Earl of Dufferin.

No. 37. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Alexh, July* 16, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30 of the 23rd May last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that within the last few days the Porte has been making very diligent inquiries respecting the object of the recent visit of Captain de Torey. I am told that Colonel Monasterski, who commands the regiment of dragoons stationed at Beyrout, has been instructed to make a report on the subject.

The late events in connection with Tunis seem to have drawn the attention of the Turkish authorities to the action of the French in this country, and the latter part of the journey of Captain de Torey has been looked upon with open suspicion. Since his departure for France emissaries of the Government have been dispatched to the Ansayeh district and other parts of Syria which he had visited, and very careful inquiries have been made to ascertain the real purpose of his coming to this country. Mr. Vice-Consul Vitali, of Lattakia, informed me, a short time ago, that the Turkish gun-boat "Rethimo," which is stationed on the coast, and had arrived there, had visited that port with the express purpose of discovering what had been the movements of M. de Torey when in that district. It is also stated that M. de Torey had interviewed several of the Ansayeh Chiefs. Mr. Vice-Consul Jago has already reported to your Excellency the manner in which he was watched by the authorities in the Hauran.

The two journeys of Captain de Torey in Syria, although looked upon with curiosity, did not at first create any great suspicion, but were thought to have connection with some engineering purposes. The turn, however, which events have taken in Tunis has caused the authorities to look more carefully into this matter, and it is now firmly believed that M. de Torey's visits had something to do with the Tunisian expedition. Two different conclusions have been arrived at on this subject:—

1. It is considered that Captain de Torey was sent to this country as a blind, to divert the attention of the Porte to the doings of the French in Syria whilst more serious objects were being planned in regard to Tunis. The manner in which he travelled, being almost all the time in full uniform, and attended by an escort, is stated to have been purposely done to attract curiosity.

2. It is believed that M. de Torey's visit was intended to ascertain the feelings of the inhabitants of Syria, especially the Ansayehs and the Druses, towards the Turkish Government.

In the event of troubles arising between France and Turkey in consequence of Tunisian difficulties, an occupation of Syria by French troops, it is thought, might have become necessary, and the exciting of the more independent races of this country against the Porte would have been a desirable object. How far these inferences are correct it is difficult to say, but it is certain that they have been carefully considered by the Turkish authorities in Syria, and it is their belief that M. de Torey's visit had a political object in view. Since his departure there has been nothing done on the part of the French that would tend to strengthen this belief, but I may mention that M. Patrimonio, the French Consul-General, who has gone to spend the summer in the village of Bekfaya, in the Lebanon, had, on his arrival there, a most enthusiastic reception from the Maronites. This has been in marked contrast to the reception that had been given to the Governor-General of the Lebanon, who

had visited the same place a few days previously, when, it is stated, hardly any one came out to meet him.

Having ascertained that the Porte has been making inquiries in regard to the recent visits of Captain de Torcy, and desiring full information, I have thought that it would not be out of place if I reported to your Excellency what, as far as I have been able to discover, is the opinion of the authorities in Syria on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 46.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 616.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 1, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Colonel Warlow, reporting a slight improvement in the condition of the Ismid Sandjak owing to the pressure brought to bear on the Circassian Beys in consequence of the representations made by the late Ambassador, and making suggestions for the restoration of order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Boli, July* 18, 1881.

I HAVE much pleasure in reporting that I find some slight improvement in the condition of the Ismid Sandjak since my visit last year, especially in the neighbourhood of Ada-Bazar, where crime was most rampant.* As there has been no increase to the police force, which was and is quite inefficient, I attribute this change to influence brought to bear on the Circassian Beys in consequence of strong representations made to the Porte by the late Ambassador.

2. I have heard but few complaints against the Georgian and Lazi emigrants, who are being settled down in the mountains, and who, so far as I have seen, are likely to do well, provided they are fairly treated and supplied in time with the seed-corn which has been promised. There are, of course, some bad characters amongst them, and two or three murders have already been committed by Lazis, who have the credit of being more savage and careless of taking life than the Circassians.

3. Notwithstanding the improvement referred to above, the state of the sandjak is still extremely bad, there being no security for life or property outside the towns. Vigorous measures are needed to restore order, and to prevent the Georgians and Lazis from following in the steps of the Circassians. Should it be found impossible to carry out any systematic and thorough reform at present, I would venture to suggest the following as a temporary expedient: Let every man of good character amongst the Redifs who have just been disbanded be supplied with a rifle and ammunition, and be permitted to go about armed. Every village and hamlet would then be guarded by some of its own people, trained soldiers, whose mere presence would suffice to cow the Circassians, who, being, as a rule, armed only with revolvers, have a wholesome dread of arms of precision.

I can see no really valid objection to this plan, which has the merit of being quite easy of execution and costing nothing; that it would be popular with the unfortunate villagers, and afford them real protection, I have no doubt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

P.S.—I should have mentioned that Ada-Bazar is the head-quarters and arms depôt of a battalion of Redifs, one ban of which (600 men) has just been disbanded.

J. P. W.

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* *Vide* my despatches No. 8, July 13; No. 10, July 30; No. 11, August 7; No. 12, August 14, 1880.

No. 47.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 561.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1881.

I HAVE received the very interesting Reports from Captain Everett, Nos. 12 and 13 of the 22nd and 24th June last, which were inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 550 of the 9th ultimo.

I approve the measures taken by Captain Everett for the relief of the distress in the Sandjak of Bayazid, and I would suggest, for your Excellency's consideration, whether it might not be advisable to have some portions of the Report No. 12 translated for communication to the Sultan, in order that His Majesty may be made really acquainted with the state of things therein described.

If your Excellency should be of opinion that you could usefully mention unofficially to the Russian Ambassador at the Porte the complaint referred to by Captain Everett as to the refusal of the Russian authorities to allow the Turks to cut wood in the Soghanli forest, I authorize you to do so.

With regard to the imprisonment and treatment of the Armenian Protestant teacher Ghazaros Effendi, who, with two companions, was employed by Captain Everett to inquire into the state of distress in the districts of the Bayazid Sandjak, I have to request your Excellency to make a further representation to the Porte on the conduct of this Mutessarif, if he should not have already been dismissed owing to the complaints which have been made by Her Majesty's Embassy as to his proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 48.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, August* 12, 1881.

CONSUL-GENERAL at Tabreez telegraphs as follows:—

"An expedition has been sent by Persians against Shekak tribe, whose Chief, Ali Khan, has fled towards Turkish territory, where his retreat should be cut off. Another expedition has been sent to Serendost."

No. 49.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 501.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1881.

IN the course of a conversation which I had with the Russian Chargé d'Affaires to-day I told him that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had in no way lost sight of the question of reforms in Armenia, and had been in communication with the Russian Chargé d'Affaires upon the question of the best manner of bringing it before the Porte.

The absence of the Russian and two of the other Ambassadors made it difficult at the present moment to arrange for any joint action; but Lord Dufferin was doing his best to make the Sultan and his Ministers fully alive to the necessity of taking the question in hand. He was pressing for the dismissal of the Vali of Diarbekir and the Mutessarif of Bayazid, whom he understood to be responsible for the most flagrant instances of oppression and misconduct, and he was impressing upon the Porte the expediency of sending a thoroughly honest and capable Administrator to bring matters more or less into order pending the consideration of a new and improved system.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 50.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13, 2 P.M.)

(No. 349.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 13, 1881, 11 A.M.*

IT is reported that the project of the concession of the railway to Bagdad to German Company is maturing. Am I to take any line in regard to it?

No. 51.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 573.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 13, 1881.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 635 of the 1st instant, reporting the nature of the representations which you have made to His Majesty the Sultan and to the Prime Minister on the urgent necessity of inaugurating a system of reform in the Government of Armenia; and stating that you are endeavouring to obtain the dismissal of the Vali of Diarbekir and the Mutessarif of Bayazid, who, as Consul Trotter informs you, are the authorities who are chiefly responsible for the unsatisfactory condition of those districts.

I have to acquaint your Excellency that the course you have followed in this question is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 52.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 656.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 5, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extremely interesting Report from Colonel Sir C. W. Wilson, giving an account of his recent journey from Smyrna to Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Sivas, July 16, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, some notes on my recent journey from Smyrna to this place.

Leaving Smyrna on the 13th May last, my route lay through Afiún Kara-Hissar, Sivri-Hissar, Angora, and Yúzgat to Sivas.

1. *The Country.*—Between Smyrna and Afiún Kara-Hissar, the first district of interest is the rich valley of the Hermus, in which excellent crops of opium, cotton, and all kinds of cereals are produced. Here, during the last few years, owing to the existence of the Smyrna-Cassaba Railway, and the recent settlement of refugees, much additional land has been brought under cultivation. There are still, however, large tracts of waste land in the hands of Moslem Notables which are used simply as sheep runs. These lands, which would suffice for the settlement of many hundred starving refugees, might, according to Turkish law, be reclaimed by the State; but the Local Government, here as elsewhere, is either afraid to enforce the law when it concerns local Notables, or is induced, by pecuniary considerations, to allow it to remain a dead letter.

On leaving the Valley of the Hermus there is an abrupt ascent to the lower level of the great plateau of Anatolia, and a change in the climate and character of the country is at once perceptible. The road to Afiún Kara-Hissar passes, by Kúla and Ushak, through a rich diversified country; in some places the red soil, the bright green of the vegetation,

and the unwonted hedge-rows, present the familiar aspect of a South Devon landscape; and in others there are extensive woods and forests of the Valonia oak. Two days' journey beyond Ushak the treeless district, which extends eastward to the foot of Anti-Taurus, commences. I am glad to be able to report a marked improvement in the condition of the Ushak Caza since my visit last year. (See Blue Book, "Turkey No. 23, 1880," p. 219.) Not only was the amount of land under cultivation much greater, but the crops, if spared by locusts, will be abundant; and though prices were still high, there did not appear to be much distress.

At Afiún Kara-Hissar I found the necessaries of life dear, and much suffering from scarcity of food and want amongst the poor. The district has been devastated by locusts two years in succession, and as they are very numerous this year, the outlook for the coming autumn and winter is more than gloomy. The Mutessarif, Tewfik Pasha, seemed alive to the gravity of the situation, and was taking steps which, he hoped, would result in the destruction of a large majority of the locusts, and would reduce the price of grain.

From Afiún Kara-Hissar and Sivri-Hissar I followed a road which passed over the mountains of Phrygia, and struck the treeless district again at Seid-i-Ghazi. The mountains, from 5,000 to 6,000 feet high, are covered in many parts with fine forests of oak, fir, cedar, and other trees, and are intersected by deep ravines. There is, however, a good road through them from Seid-i-Ghazi to Bálayadin, which was once the highway from Constantinople to Konieh, but is now not used. In this mountain district there was great scarcity of food; many of the people were living on herbs and milk; and at one village the women came to the tents crying for bread, which they declared they had not seen for eight or nine months. The population is purely Moslem, and almost entirely of Turkomon origin. The country between Seid-i-Ghazi and Sivri-Hissar is chiefly pasture-land, and supports large flocks of sheep and Angora goats. Sivri-Hissar is a large town, and one of the most important centres of the mohair trade; but it has no postal or telegraph communication, not even with Angora, the chief town of the vilayet.

The pasture lands continue from Sivri-Hissar to Angora, but in certain localities, where streams issue from the mountains, especially on the eastern slopes of the Güzeri Dagh, the land is well cultivated, and considerable skill is shown in the art of irrigation. Here also the population is entirely Moslem.

The main road skirts the district of Haimanch, a high-lying plateau peopled by Kurds and Turkomans. Haimanch is noted for the excellence and abundance of its crops, and is commonly called the granary of Angora. It also constitutes with the Bozúk, a similar plateau east of Yúzgat, the great breeding ground of the Túlú, a large camel, which is, I believe, peculiar to Anatolia. The Túlú is a mule, and the result of a cross between the Bactrian and the Arabian camel, the former being the father. The Bactrian camel is imported from Persia and Turkestan, principally by Armenians, and is let out on hire as stallions are in England; the Arabian camel is brought up from Syria. The Túlú is of large size, and works well in mud and snow, when the Arabian camel is almost helpless; but he suffers much from the heat, and is peculiarly liable to cutaneous diseases.

The commercial importance of Angora, its large mohair trade, and the varied nature and excellence of the fruit grown there, have been fully reported upon by Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral.

Between Angora and Yúzgat the country is much broken by the valleys of the Kizil and Delijé Irmaks and their feeders; and at Yúzgat itself, which has an altitude of over 4,300 feet, the higher plateau, which extends eastward to Sivas, is reached. The valleys and gentler slopes produce excellent crops of corn, whilst the higher and more abrupt slopes afford pasturage for sheep and Angora goats. The road from Yúzgat to Sivas passes for the most part through a succession of broad valleys or elevated plains, in which the feeders of the Kizil and Delijé Irmaks and the Chekerek take their rise. The soil is rich and produces excellent crops of wheat, barley, rye, &c.; there is, however, much waste land, which might be used for the settlement of refugees.

2. *The People.*—During my journey I saw much to confirm the opinion which I have expressed in previous Reports, that the great mass of the peasantry of Anatolia is of indigenous, or rather of non-Turk origin. The Seljúks and Osmanli Turks are represented by the nomad Yúrúks and Turkomans, the settled Turkomans, the Beys and Mostems in the larger towns, and the official class. There are also a few villages in which the people appear to be of pure Turk blood. The principal races met with in the country traversed were Greeks, Armenians, Zeibeks, Yúrúks, Turkomans, Kurds, Circassians, and the non-Turk peasantry.

The Greeks of the coast districts have already been reported upon in my despatches Nos. 68 and 69 of the 29th and 30th November last. There are comparatively few Greeks on the Anatolian plateau, but I found flourishing communities at Kúla, Ushak, and

Angora, and there are always Greek villages in the neighbourhood of ancient mines. The large Pontic-Greek population between Sivas and Samsún lay to the left of my route, and has been noticed in previous Reports. The Greeks of the towns are merchants or tradesmen, and speak only Turkish; those of the villages are agriculturists or miners, and they have, as a rule, retained their language. It is impossible not to admire the efforts which the Greeks are making to educate the rising generation, and introduce the Greek language; no pains or money are spared; and the results already obtained are most encouraging. This is particularly the case at Angora, where many of the members of the Greek community are wealthy and influential men.

The Armenians are not found in any numbers until Angora is reached. There are, however, a few families at Ushák, and about 800 houses at Afiún Kara-Hissar, the descendants, as is said, of a colony forcibly transplanted from Armenia by one of the Seljúk Sultans. There is also a flourishing community at Sivri-Hissar.

Istanoz, near Angora, is a purely Armenian village, and in Angora itself the number of Armenian males is 3,282, of whom, however, 2,873 are Roman Catholics. At Yúzgat there is a large Armenian population, which, owing to the wise dispositions made by Chóban Oghlu on the foundation of the town, has always been on the best of terms with the Moslems. Nowhere in Anatolia is there a more friendly feeling between the members of the two creeds. I am sorry to say that the Mutessarif, who has since been dismissed, was doing his best to destroy the existing cordiality. In the Bozúk, east of Yúzgat, there are many Armenian villages, especially in the Valley of the Delijé Irmak; and beyond it in the Sivas Vilayet, where the Armenians constitute nearly one-fourth of the entire population, the numbers increase.

The Armenians of Sivri-Hissar speak Armenian much intermixed with Turkish; those of Angora and the Bozúk, Turkish; and those of Sivas Vilayet, Armenian. The Armenians of the towns are doctors, lawyers, merchants, money-changers, tithe-collectors, tax gatherers, artisans, and pedlars; those of the villages agriculturists, and, in some few cases, camel drivers. The Armenians are also making great efforts to educate their children and introduce the use of their national language; but the system of education in their schools is, usually, neither so good nor so liberal as that in the Greek schools. At Sivri-Hissar there is a school built entirely at the cost of a native of that place; and at Tersali, a village on the Delijé Irmak, a large school, which forms an educational centre for the surrounding district, has recently been erected by public subscription.

The origin of the Zeibéks is lost in obscurity. They occupy the district which lies east of Smyrna between the Hermus and the Meander, but are also found beyond those limits.

They are fine, well-made men, remarkable for their endurance and courage; their type of face is distinct from that of the Turk; and they wear a peculiar dress not found elsewhere in Anatolia.

The Zeibeks have a bad reputation in the coast towns for lawlessness and robbery, but the stories are much exaggerated, and though some of the most daring bandits have been Zeibeks, the people, on the whole, form an orderly and well-conducted peasantry. The abduction of women, so common throughout Anatolia, is, however, almost a national custom, for a Zeibek is hardly considered a man until he has carried off some girl to the mountains.

The Yúrúks are found almost everywhere throughout Anatolia, but are most numerous in the southern and western districts. They are nomads, living on the plateau and in the mountains during summer, and in winter retiring to the warmer climate of the coast; they have large herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep and goats; and cultivate small patches of ground near their summer pastures. The Yúrúks profess to be Moslems, but their knowledge of Islam does not appear to be very deep, and their practice is confined to a repetition of the common formulæ; I have never met an Imam amongst them, and never seen a Yúrúk engaged in prayer. The Turkish Government has often attempted to settle the Yúrúks, but always without success.

The Turkomans are partly settled and partly nomad; they form a large proportion of the population on the slopes of the Phrygian mountains, in Haimanch, and in the country between Angora and Yúzgat. They own large flocks and herds, and in places have become fair agriculturists. Chóban Oghlu, the founder of Yúzgat, was a Turkoman Chief. The Turkomans are Moslems of the Sunni faith, and are far more particular in their religious observances than the Yúrúks. The Yúrúks and Turkomans are of pure Turk blood, and descendants of some of the tribes which overran Anatolia under Seljúk and Osmanli leaders. I have collected a number of family and tribal names, hoping, at some future time, to be able to trace their origin. The Yúrúks and Turkomans are alike honest, frugal, and hospitable, and their women, who appear never to have adopted the

Arab custom of veiling the face, have an unusual amount of freedom. They are both large camel owners, and do most of the camel carrying trade in the country; some of the men are often away from home for more than twelve months at a time, engaged on this business.

There are two other semi-nomad tribes, the Chepni and the Tachtaji, whose origin is obscure. They are called Alivis (Shi'ites) by the Sunni Moslems, who hate and despise them, but they have no mosques, no Imams, and no religious books, and no tradition of whence they came. They have, however, certain observances, such as mourning over the dead, strewing flowers on a corpse, and the partaking of wine by bride and bridegroom at a wedding, which appear to be of Christian origin; and certain customs, on the other hand, which point to a connection with the Ansariych of Syria.

The Kurds in the district under review are either settled or semi-nomad; they occupy a large part of Haimanch, and form a compact population in some parts of the Sivas Vilayet. They are either agriculturists or owners of flocks of sheep and goats; and the carpets made by the women have a high reputation.

Most of the Kurds are Kizilbash, a name used in Eastern Anatolia to denote any one who professes the Shi'te faith. The religion of the Kizilbash Kurds, however, is peculiar; they believe in the transmigration of souls, and that Abraham, Moses, Christ, Mohammed, and Ali were different incarnations of the Deity; Ali, being the last incarnation, is most reverenced.

They have religious books, which are jealously guarded from the sight of strangers, and many curious customs and ceremonies peculiar to themselves. The Kizilbashis are treated with much injustice by the Turkish officials, and disliked by the Sunni Moslems, who accuse them of all kinds of immoral practices.

The Circassians have frequently been noticed in previous Reports; those which I met on this occasion belonged to the Abbasekh and Shabsukh tribes; there were also some villages of Gabartai in the Kutaya Sandjak, left behind when the tribe was moved some years ago to the Sivas Vilayet. The recent arrivals were settling down quietly as agriculturists, and I heard no complaints of their conduct. The quick intelligence of the Circassians, their honesty, and their power of work, are much appreciated by employers of labour, and, when paid, they make good zaptiehs and police.

The non-Turk peasantry, who form a large majority of the population of Anatolia, appear to owe their origin to a fusion of ancient races, which probably owned a common descent. After the Moslem invasion they adopted Islam as their religion, and gradually identified themselves with their conquerors.

The features of the peasantry are different from those of the Turks, and the prevailing type is so well marked, that when travelling in Eastern Roumelia last year, I at once recognized a colony of Anatolians which had been settled in the country for more than a hundred years. Within the borders of ancient Galatia, however, the frequent occurrence of light hair with blue eyes points to descent from a different stock, and many of the children bore a striking resemblance to those in the Highlands of Scotland. In some villages the people were evidently of Greek and Armenian origin, the men retaining the old national names which are handed down from father to son. This persistency of type is no doubt due to difficulty of communication, and to the general custom of marrying within the limits of the village or its neighbourhood.

The fine qualities of the peasant are well known; honest and straightforward in his dealings with others; brave, frugal, temperate, and capable of great endurance, he has always formed the best of soldiers. He belongs to the same race which, under Mithridates, contended against the armies of Rome, and at a later period formed the flower of the Byzantine armies, and even gave Emperors to the throne. The Janissaries, who so largely contributed to the extension of Moslem rule in Europe, were principally recruited from Anatolia, and some of the best troops in the late war came from the same country. With all these fine qualities the Anatolian, though not wanting in natural intelligence, is apathetic, illiterate, and utterly indifferent to the outer world. The peasant possesses two remarkable characteristics, to which little attention has been paid; he is almost slavishly submissive to constituted authority, and is imbued with a strong religious instinct. A man who has fought at Plevna or Schipka will allow himself to be bullied and beaten by a zaptieh, or thrown unjustly into prison without raising a hand.

The religious instinct has always been strongly marked; in early ages, religious centres, famous throughout the ancient world, arose in every district of Anatolia; the ruins of Byzantine churches, which may be seen in almost every village and cemetery, show what a strong hold Christianity had on the people; and at the present day the peasant is a devout but not fanatic Moslem; careful in all religious observances, especially prayer, and living on terms of amity with his Christian neighbours, except when his passions are

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roused for political or party purposes by Turkish officials, or by the preaching of Turkish mollahs.

In an agricultural and pastoral country like Anatolia the peasantry form the bone and sinew of the nation, and the Government should devote its serious attention to the improvement of their condition. Unfortunately, the reverse is the case, and, to use a homely expression, Turkish officials are everywhere busily engaged in killing the goose which lays the golden egg. The state of the peasantry is indeed most pitiable; the male population decimated by the late war; the richest lands devastated by locusts; the flocks unrecovered from the winter of 1879–80; whole villages breaking up, and the people wandering away in search of food; and crowds of refugees leading a precarious life, often dying of want and disease, offer a picture which might well spur any Government to action. The only relief granted has been increased taxation and the collection of taxes with a rigour which has rarely been equalled. What the peasant requires above everything is security to life and property; an honest, vigilant police; cheap, prompt, and upright Courts of Law; and equality of taxation. At present, police exist only in name; the Courts are corrupt, and the procedure unsuitable to the people; and the peasant bears more than his fair share of the taxation. The tithes and the sheep-tax, which form nearly three-fifths of the annual revenue, fall entirely on the peasantry, and they have also to bear their share of the indirect contributions and the property tax; yet with all this, the Government returns nothing in the form of roads, drainage, or elementary education. The country is naturally so rich, the people are so simple and submissive, and their wants are so few, that, even under moderately good government, Anatolia would speedily recover; but if some steps be not taken to stop the present waste of the national strength and resources, the most serious consequences must follow.

The Turks proper, official and non-official, have been fully noticed in previous Reports: I will only add here that amongst the officials there are many honest, capable men, who struggle in vain against the prevailing corruption of their class. I am sorry to say also, that the habit of drinking, the one vice from which Turks were formerly free, is every year becoming more confirmed.

3. *The Crops* everywhere promised well except where they had already been eaten by locusts, and in those districts which the locusts spare the harvest will be abundant, or fully up to the average. In the Sivas Vilayet insufficiency of rain has caused some anxiety, but on the other hand, I have seldom seen finer crops of wheat, barley, and rye than those which cover the country between Angora and Sivas. The opium crop in the lower districts promised to be unusually good.

4. *Locusts* have appeared in the western districts in immense numbers; swarms or armies of them, in various stages of growth, were passed on every day's march from Smyrna to Angora, except when crossing the Phrygian mountains. Beyond Angora there were no locusts, but I have recently heard that they have appeared, in the flying stage, at Shabkin Kara-Hissar, in the Sivas Vilayet. In three places I found the russet starling, or locust bird, in countless numbers, busily engaged in destroying the locusts. It is difficult to realize the numbers of the locusts and the ravages which they commit without having seen them, but Mr. Gatheral has so fully reported on what occurred at Angora, that it is needless to say more here. On the Tchibuk Ova, and at Ayash, many villagers, hopeless of assistance from Government, had left their homes, and I found some of these unfortunate people wandering over the country to the east of Yuzgat. The apathy and indifference which have hitherto been shown by the people and the local officials in the face of this scourge are truly surprising, but recently they have been roused to action, and though there is little method or system in the measures which have been taken, much has been done; at Angora alone 1,700 tons' weight of young locusts have been taken and destroyed. I brought the condition of the country and people, of which he did not seem previously to have been fully aware, to the notice of the Vali of Angora. His Excellency at once sent zaptiehs to the worst districts, and I heard afterwards that he had made arrangements for obtaining corn from Yuzgat and Sivas. I also took occasion to impress on some of the leading members of the Moslem and Christian communities at Angora the necessity of taking some steps to assist the Local Government, should the prospect become worse. Since my arrival at Sivas I have received a telegram from Mr. Gatheral, to the effect that the locusts had made few further ravages, and that the price of grain had fallen.

5. *Taxation.*—In nearly every village complaints were made to me of the increase in the tax on mohair goats, the unfair assessment of house and landed property, and of the harsh manner in which the taxes were being collected at a time when the people were suffering so severely from locusts. The mohair goat tax has been raised this year from 4½ to 6 piastres per head; and the accompanying petition from one of the villages will show the manner in which the peasantry are being pressed.

I had no means of verifying the statements made by the petitioners with reference to the high assessment of their lands, but, from what has come under my notice in other places, I am aware that unfair assessment is common, and a fertile source of income to the assessors.

The impossibility of obtaining a fair assessment of land with the present corrupt staff has always led me to think that the abolition of the tithe system, in the existing state of the country, would be extremely unwise; and I see that Colonel Warlow, in his despatch No. 8 of the 6th June last, alludes to the unsatisfactory results in the Brusa Vilayet, which have followed the establishment of a fixed tax per dunum for opium, instead of the usual tithe. As regards the rigour with which the taxes are being collected, there is no exaggeration; men are beaten, thrown into prison, and their effects sold on slight or no provocation. Mr. Gatheral's despatch No. 95 of the 23rd April last will have informed your Lordship that even women are cruelly beaten. Here in Sivas two cases have recently been reported to me, in which men walking in the town were seized by the zaptiehs, accused of not paying their taxes, and thrown at once into prison without being allowed to return home for the money. One of the men was the servant of an American Missionary, and well known to everyone. The forced loan is being collected in a similar way, and several Christians have already been imprisoned at Sivas for not paying it at once.

6. *Public Security.*—In my despatch No. 73 of the 23rd December last I drew attention to the unsatisfactory condition of certain districts in the Aidin Vilayet. I have now much pleasure in reporting that the steps taken by Midhat Pasha during the ensuing months to suppress brigandage were attended with almost complete success. His Highness organized a police force for Smyrna and field gendarmerie for the country, and the result of this wise action was at once apparent. In December last no one in Smyrna could venture out alone after dark with safety; in April the streets were as safe as those of an English town. In the country brigandage was virtually suppressed, and the people could follow their daily pursuits with a sense of security which they had not enjoyed for years. There were few complaints of robbery in the portions of the Brusa and Angora Vilayets which I traversed, and such robberies as had occurred, with the exception of a daring attempt to rob the post near Kutaya, were of a comparatively trifling nature. At Angora, however, I found a band of about thirty men leagued together for the abduction of Christian boys for immoral purposes. One poor boy who resisted was badly wounded in the street whilst I was in the town, and during an interview which I afterwards had with the Vali, I expressed a hope that his Excellency would put an end to the proceedings of the ruffianly gang. Mr. Gatheral has since informed me that eleven arrests have been made, and that the authors of the outrage on the boy have been arrested. In the Sivas Vilayet it was impossible not to notice the change which had taken place since the termination of Abdeline Pasha's brief but vigorous rule; the corrupt and feeble government of the present Vali, Hakki Pasha, has produced the inevitable result, and even the Assistant Public Prosecutor expresses astonishment at the number of crimes reported to him. On this subject, however, I propose to address your Lordship a separate Report.

7. *Courts of Justice.*—No improvement has taken place in the Courts since my Report on the Administration of Justice was written. (See Blue Book, "Turkey No. 23, 1880," p. 255.) The complaints were loud and universal, especially with regard to the opportunities which the Public Prosecutors had of taking bribes, and the eagerness with which they availed themselves of them.

One important change has, however, been made, which has had the effect of bringing the Courts entirely under the influence of the Valis, and so defeating the primary object of the new Regulations. No Judge, legal official, or member of a Court can now draw his pay until his pay-docket is countersigned by the Vali and the Defterdar. The Vali has thus the power of withholding the pay of a Judge unless he is completely subservient to his wishes. This power has been grossly abused by Hakki Pasha, the Vali of Sivas; in one instance, the Judge of the Criminal Court of Appeal, who showed a certain independence during the trial of the Armenian rioters, and who has been more than a month under orders to proceed to Brusa, cannot obtain his ten months' arrears of pay, because the Vali will not sign his pay-docket. This action of Hakki Pasha is notoriously due to his dislike of the Judge. On the other hand, the Assistant Public Prosecutor, a man devoted to the Vali's interests, who has recently been dismissed, has been paid in full, and has carried away about £T. 1,000 in bribes, the result of eighteen months' service to the State. This man was a Custom-house official at Samsún when Hakki Pasha was Mutessarif of that place, and, on his first appointment to Sivas, was so ignorant of law that he was the laughing-stock of the place.

I may add, that all the law officials in the Sivas Vilayet are several months in arrear of pay, and have, therefore, every inducement to accept bribes.

8. *Finance.*—The financial state of the provinces is one of semi-bankruptcy. The provincial chests are drained of money to supply the needs of Constantinople, and at one place I visited there was not a single piastre in the treasury. At the same time, the zaptiehs and Government officials are left unpaid, and Treasury orders, or "havalés," drawn on the provincial chest, are issued far in excess of the revenue. In the Sivas Vilayet these "havalés" are already no less than £ T. 180,000 in excess of the revenue. In the Angora Vilayet, the sheep-tax is being collected by Mr. Gatherer, and he has succeeded, by his admirable financial arrangements, in retaining the specie in the country.

9. *Public Works.*—By a Ministerial Order issued last year, a certain proportion of the revenue was to be retained in each vilayet for public works, but the order has virtually been a dead letter. In several places I found road-making going on, but the work was being conducted in a perfunctory manner. No skilled labour was employed, as no money was granted to pay for it, and the labourers were all villagers working under the law which obliges every man to give four days' labour annually to the State. No use is ever made of the convicts who crowd the prisons. In justice to the engineers of the vilayets, I must say that many of them are competent men, anxious to carry out public works; but without money they can do nothing.

10. In the Aidin, Brusa, and Angora Vilayets, I found most of the refugees had been settled down, and were cultivating the lands allotted to them; but in the Yúzgat Sandjak I met large numbers of Kars refugees, who had recently been sent on from Sivas. Many were in great poverty, and these poor people loudly complained of the treatment they had received from the Mutessarif, Hady Pasha.

It was generally stated that no one who had not sufficient money to smooth the difficulties of official transactions at Yúzgat could obtain land, and my own observations led me to form the same opinion. The state of the refugees in the Sivas Vilayet has frequently been brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Embassy; it would not be easy to exaggerate the sufferings which they have undergone, or the burden which they have been to the Moslem peasantry.

A special Commissioner, Lieutenant-General (Ferik) Mustapha Pasha, arrived last month for the settlement of the refugees. I have not yet seen sufficient of his work to know how it is being done, but the task he has in hand is an extremely difficult one, and will give him full occupation for many weeks. The employment of an officer of such high rank shows that the Porte has been at length aroused to the importance of the refugee question, and I hope that the best results may flow from the new appointment. It is almost needless to add that I have seen little or no attempt to introduce those reforms into the administration of the provinces which have been so frequently promised, and are still so urgently needed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Petition from the Villagers of ———.

Excellency,

IN 1295 (1879), the Land Registry officials came to the villages of ——— mahié, in the ——— cazn. They registered one dunum of land as fifteen dunums, and assessed houses worth 15 or 100 piastres at 10,000 and 15,000 piastres. In consequence of this our property tax is very heavy, and our debts have accumulated. In payment of our arrears the officials sent by the Kaimakam are selling our plough-oxen, sheep, goats, and even 9 or 15 pounds of flour at very low prices; thus oxen, cows, and sheep, worth 80 to 90 piastres, are sold for 15 or 20 piastres. We, the poor people, are in this way pressed very hard, much oppressed and impoverished. This year a portion of our crops has been injured by locusts and hares. Some of us have been obliged to sell our lands to gain a livelihood; others have been living on a soup of barley and millet; and at present our condition is so bad that widows and orphans are living on wild herbs. We have several times presented petitions, but nothing has been done. We beg you to visit our houses, and see yourself the state we are living in. We entreat you in the name of God and the Prophet to have pity on us.

No. 53.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 15.*)

(No. 658.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August 6, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Sir C. Wilson, reporting on the case of two individuals, claiming to be Russian subjects, who have been imprisoned at Sivas.

I have communicated this despatch to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 22.)

My Lord, *Sivas, July 20, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of the 14th instant, and my telegram of the 18th (copy inclosed), I have the honour to state that the Vali still refuses to acknowledge Ismail as a Russian subject, though I have read to him telegrams from the Russian Consul-General at Erzeroum which establish the man's identity.

The other Russian subject, Mardiros Balayan, who was provided with a passport signed by Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Consul at Van, has at last been recognized.

I am sorry to say that my interviews with Hakki Pasha have been most unsatisfactory; his Excellency at first refused to acknowledge the men as Russian subjects, and wished me to accept the position of a mere spectator at the final sitting of the Court. It was only to-day, on my telling him plainly that, unless the examinations and trials were conducted in a proper way, in the presence of Mr. Cameron, I should take no part in them, and report the matter to your Lordship, that he consented to recognize Mardiros Balayan as a Russian subject.

The case of Ismail is a curious one; every one, except the Vali, the Public Prosecutor, and a few other officials, knows him to be a Russian, and speaks of him as such; and it is notorious that the man could at any time have obtained his release by paying £T. 100. The interest of the Public Prosecutor is due to the fact that the brother of the man robbed is his surety. The Vali is doubtless anxious to avoid the disclosures which must occur in the event of a proper trial.

Briefly, Ismail was seized and robbed by a Captain of cavalry, who then carried him to Yenikhan, and accused him of a robbery committed whilst he was still at Erzeroum. Ismail not knowing Turkish, the same Captain acted as interpreter when the depositions were taken, and on these depositions it is proposed to try the prisoner. All this time the Public Prosecutor has had in his hands a telegram stating that Ismail left Erzeroum after the date of the robbery. The suppression of the letters which Ismail wrote to the Russian Ambassador is a grave feature in the case.

Your Lordship will see from the treatment of these two men how difficult it must be for an Ottoman subject to obtain the slightest justice under the Government of Hakki Pasha.

I attach statements which have been drawn up with reference to the two prisoners. I believe that relating to Ismail to be substantially correct, but I have not so much confidence in the account which Mardiros Balayan has given of himself.

The only charge, however, against him is the possession of a seal, supposed to be forged, and of an Armenian national song.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Sivas, July* 18, 1881.

RUSSIAN Consul at Erzeroum has asked me to watch the case of two Russian subjects in prison here. The Governor-General refuses to recognize them, and examination is improper. I think that the men are innocent.

Please acquaint the Russian Ambassador.

Inclosure 3 in No. 53.

Memorandum respecting the case of Tiflisli Ismail Ayuboff, now in Sivas Prison, charged with Highway Robbery.

ISMAIL eloped with his cousin from Erzeroum twenty days after Ramazan Bairam last year, *i.e.*, the latter part of September 1880, and arrived at Mihe Ali's village, some ten hours from Sivas, where he left his wife. Mihr Ali advised him to live at Tokat, so he went to find a dwelling there, and stayed two nights.

On his way back from Tokat to fetch his wife, he was stopped at the Chimin Bel by a patrol of cavalry, commanded by Yuzbashi Mirza Bey, a Tegui Circassian, who robbed him of 200 roubles, a gun, a silver belt, &c., and a horse. He was then taken to Youkhari, where Mirza Bey accused him of having robbed two kafirjis, or muleteers, and the first "Istintak" was held. Mirza Bey acted perfunctorily as Dragoman. Ismail knew very little Turkish, but denied throughout that he was an Ottoman subject.

On arrival at Sivas Ismail complained of Mirza Bey's having robbed him further of a watch and chain; these were found on Mirza Bey's person, and restored to Ismail by the Kaimakam, Ahmed Bey. Since then, however, the watch has been stolen in prison.

Ismail has on three separate occasions written petitions to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, but all of them have been kept back by the local authorities.

With regard to the accusation, it appears that two kafirjis, conveying carpets belonging to Shamili Oglu Filfos Aglu, were robbed on the 8th day after Ramazan Bairam last year, *i.e.*, early in September, 1880.

On Ismail and four Kara Kalpaklus being confronted with them, the two kafirjis swore that all five men were those who had robbed them on the day in question.

Now the four other men had notoriously been in Sivas prison for the last two and a half years, while as to Ismail's *alibi* the following evidence has been given:—

The Sivas Mudai-Umoomi, or Public Prosecutor, telegraphed to the Erzeroum Mudai-Umoomi, asking him when "Tiflisli Ismail Ayuboff" left Erzeroum, and the answer was that he had left that city on the 20th day after Ramazan Bairam last year, *i.e.*, twelve days after the robbery had been committed near Sivas. The Sivas Mudai-Umoomi thus acknowledged Ismail as a Russian subject, which he now refuses to do.

Ismail's passport contained his own name, as well as those of his two servants. This passport he entrusted to one of the latter, whom he sent to his father's house in Tiflis, and by means of it the matter was brought to the notice of the Russian Consul-General at Erzeroum, who then began taking steps in the matter.

With the exception of the disproved evidence of the two kafirjis, nothing has been brought against Ismail, who, moreover, has been told that he will be released on payment of 1,000 roubles (£ T. 100) as compensation to Shamili Oglu Filfos Aglu; in other words, that the crime of highway robbery imputed to him can be condoned by a money payment.

Ismail has now been in prison nearly nine months, the first month of which was passed in chains.

Sivas, July 19, 1881.

Inclosure 4 in No. 53.

Statement made by Mardiros Balayan, a Russian subject, now confined in the Sivas Prison.

MARDIROS BALAYAN, an Armenian Russian subject, a native of Akoulitz, 90 versts from Nakhitchevan, left his native town two years ago, and travelled in the Vladi Caucasus till he entered Turkish territory at Van the last week in April 1880.

He came to Van in search of employment, and, finding none, wished to continue his journey to Bitlis. He received a passport from the Russian Vice-Consul, Major Kanasiragan, at Van, and went to Bitlis. From thence he continued his journey viâ Erzinjan to Kemakh, to which place he was sent as schoolmaster by the Armenian Bishop at Erzinjan. He stayed at Kemakh about thirty-five days, and, because the people could not support him, left the place and went to Gonner, an Armenian village one hour from Kemakh. He remained there as schoolmaster six months, and then went to Shabhin Kara-Hissar. Not finding employment in that town, he came to Sivas. He stopped eight days at the Armenian convent, and then wanted to go to Amasia, with a letter of recommendation from the Armenian Bishop at Sivas, so as to obtain employment in the silk factories. He wished to get a "tezkéré" (pass) from the Government, but when he showed his passport to the authorities he was arrested on the 14th April last and sent to prison.

Since that time he has been repeatedly examined. He did not know much Turkish, and wished some one to translate the questions put to him and his answers. As no one was brought, he did not understand the questions, and does not know whether they understood his answers.

One of the charges brought against him is the possession of a paper containing an inflammatory song calculated to disturb the peace of the country. Mardiros says that the song is a national one, copied from an Armenian song-book published at Constantinople.

The other charge is that a seal, supposed to be forged, was found in his possession when he was arrested. The seal has a cross in the middle and the word "Khrimian," the name of the present Armenian Bishop at Van and ex-Patriarch, round it. Mardiros says that he found the seal, with a few medjidiés, in a purse which was left in his room by an Armenian, called Karnig, who came to see him when he was at Gonner.

July 18, 1881.

No. 54.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 408.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 15, 1881, 3:30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No 349 of 13th.
Bagdad Railway.
See my despatch No. 140 of the 28th February.
You should repeat caution to Sultan given by Mr. Goschen, and advise caution and inquiries.

No. 55.

M. Davydow to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16.)

M. le Comte, *Ambassade Impériale de Russie, le* 16 *Août*, 1881.

J'AI reçu hier de M. de Giers un télégramme par lequel il me charge de remercier votre Excellence pour la communication relative à la démarche faite par Lord Dufferin auprès du Sultan dans la question Arménienne. M. de Giers ajoute qu'il en informe notre Chargé d'Affaires à Constantinople en lui recommandant d'appuyer cette démarche.

Pour ce qui est de l'affaire Lewisohn, j'ai informé hier Sir Charles Dilke que notre Consul-Général avait visé le passeport sans demander d'ordres de St. Pétersbourg, et en avertissant le porteur du document que, comme tout voyageur, il aurait à se soumettre aux lois de l'Empire.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. DAVYDOW.

No. 55.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 300.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 18, 1881.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires informed me on the 16th instant that he had received a telegram from his Government instructing him to express their thanks to me for the communication made to him on the 12th instant, and recorded in my despatch No. 301 of that date, relative to the steps taken by the Earl of Dufferin in regard to Armenian reforms; the telegram also stated that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople had been enjoined to give his support to the action of Her Majesty's Ambassador on this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 56.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 361.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1881.

E I MENTIONED to-day to the German Chargé d'Affaires the steps which have been taken by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to keep the question of Armenian reforms before the attention of the Porte. I said that the absence of most of the Ambassadors at this moment was an obstacle to any attempt at decided collective action, but that Lord Dufferin was doing what was possible to make the Turkish Ministers alive to the state of the country, and was urging upon them the necessity of taking the initiatory remedial steps by the dismissal of the worst officials, and the appointment of efficient and honest administrators.

I remarked that Prince Bismarck, when he had been consulted on the subject, had expressed an opinion that the German Government would not be disposed to take any leading part in this question, but had advised that Her Majesty's Government should endeavour to act in concert with Russia, and had said that the German Representative would be ready to support any advice or diplomatic action which might be agreed upon by England and Russia. Lord Dufferin was acting upon this advice, and we should be glad if Prince Bismarck could give instructions in the sense which he had indicated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 57.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 677.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 12, 1881.

I HAVE been informed, on good authority, that of the sixty-five Kurdish Chiefs sent by Abédine Pasha to Constantinople, thirty-five have been allowed to return to their native country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 58.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 682. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 13, 1881.

ON the 9th instant the Persian Minister, Mohsin Khan, told me that he had demanded from the Minister for Foreign Affairs explanations of the extraordinary favour shown to the Sheikh Obeidullah, and had been told, in reply, that the honourable treatment the Sheikh was receiving was merely intended to soothe the agitation in Kurdistan, and that ere long he would be relegated to some place where he could do no mischief.

His Excellency then proceeded to complain of the hostile attitude of the Porte towards Persia, and intimated that the imperious conduct of Turkey had engendered such deep resentment amongst his countrymen, that they would be only too likely to exact retribution whenever a fitting opportunity of doing so should present itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 59.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville;—(Received August 22.)

(No. 685.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 14, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 549 of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Major Trotter, forwarding documents from Hohannes Vartabed, Bishop of Alashgert, setting forth the chief grievances against the Mutessarif of Bayazid, and the wrongs suffered by the people at the hands of the officials and the Kurds during the last two years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, July* 22, 1881.

I BEG to inclose herewith translations of the documents handed to me by Hohannes Vartabed, Armenian Bishop of Alashgert, to which I have referred in my despatch No. 12 of the 22nd ultimo.

The first of these sets forth the principal grievances against the Mutessarif of Bayazid and the Local Government. Some of these I have already reported on in my despatches No. 25 of the 24th December, 1880, No. 2 of the 27th January, 1881, No. 3 of the 18th February, 1881, and also in a despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador dated the 20th January, 1881.

These charges have been reported to me now from so many different sources that I can have no doubt of their truth.

In my despatch No. 5 of the 26th March, 1881, I informed you that the Vali had written from here to request the dismissal of the Mutessarif. This is perfectly true, but I happen to know now that he also wrote privately to inform the Porte that it was only on account of the pressure put upon him by the English Consul that he made this request, and that the Mutessarif really was an excellent administrator who ought to be retained at all costs in his present position.

The other inclosure is a list of the wrongs suffered by the people at the hands of the officials and of the Kurds during the last two years. I first thought of abridging its contents, but on consideration preferred to send you a literal translation of the document in order to show you exactly the sort of suffering to which these people are daily subjected.

I do not think there is any exaggeration in the crimes, but there is now and then in the value of the stock. This, however, is not of much consequence, since I only wish to bring to your notice the oppression to which the Christians are subjected. The list is already swollen. Since I received it our examiner has returned from finishing up the famine work in Alashgert, and reports that several of the villages to which we gave relief have been called upon to transport grain to Van for the troops. Having no cattle of their own, they have been compelled to hire from the Kurds, giving up the wheat we gave them in payment for the oxen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Hohannes Vartabed to Captain Everett.

(Translation.) *Toprak Kaleh, May 6, 1881.*

THE actions of Ibrahim Effendi, Mutessarif of Bayazid, and some members of the Government, during one year and a-half.

1. He collected by force the arrears of taxes for three years.

2. He imprisoned all those who said there was famine.

3. When, in April, the famine began he sent a Binbashi from Bayazid to Alashgert, and forced the people to transport through the snow the Government store of Alashgert to Bayazid for the ostensible purpose of giving to the Kurds to sow; this, however, he did not do, but sold it at a high price.

4. A portion of this wheat was allotted to the bakery, when Suleiman Effendi sold it for 8 or 10 piastres the oke, instead of 60 paras; forty families emigrated to Russia unable to buy or live.

5. In 1879 an order came from Constantinople to organize a Committee at Bayazid to examine into the people's losses during the war; these amounted to 7,000,000 or 8,000,000 piastres; but the Mutessarif wrote to the Vali that this matter would cause difficulty. Therefore the Committee was never organized; further, some of those who had assisted at the massacre were placed in high positions.

6. Order came several times from the Vali to receive the receipts held by the people in payment for taxes, but the Mutessarif has never done so.

7. He collected the most part of the taxes, taking each beshlik at 2½ piastres; last January only did he begin to take each beshlik at 5 piastres according to the order.

8. The wheat that came from Erzeroum and Baiburt was to have been sold to the people at 300 piastres the sonnar. He sold it at 600 piastres.

9. In the years 1293-94 (1877-78) wheat was lent to the people; at the same time the Government were selling wheat at 40 paras the oke, but the Mutessarif collected money for what was loaned at 50 paras the oke, and took, in addition, 12 piastres per 100 as interest for the loan.

10. In 1879, when the people returned from Russia, they found their field of corn reaped; the product was to have been apportioned thus: half the crop to those who returned, and half to those who reaped; but the Government sold it in advance to any one who would buy.

11. Last year, on the tithe being taken to Bayazid, the Government declared it to be insufficient, notwithstanding that it had been properly measured in the districts; the Government for the deficit took money from the villagers; as, for example, at Hatchloo 6*l.*; no payment for transport has at any time been made to the people, although they have transported the tithe both to Bayazid, Van, and other places.

12. April 1880, Mohamed, Binbashi of Bayazid, came to get the wheat transported, and beat the people very severely till they did so; the people hired oxen for the purpose at from 8 to 10 roubles for each, but they have never received any payment.

13. In April 1880 soldiers were going to Bayazid, and took by force from the people of Mullah Suleiman and Kara Kilissa, beating several hundred people, arabas for their officers and families; on the road several oxen died, and some of the arabas were broken, but the soldiers neither paid for the damage nor for the hire.

14. The former Cadi of Toprak Kaleh, Mustafa Effendi, of Bayazid, went round the districts examining the title-deeds of property. He collected a large sum of money as payment for fresh deeds, but gave no official papers. He then left the district, and the people have lost their money without obtaining the papers.

15. The Government is obliging the people to procure new title-deeds for their land. (This since September 1880.) Those who cannot pay are imprisoned.

16. In October 1880 the Mutessarif, accompanied by 100 men, some soldiers, and some Kurdish Beys, came to Kara Kilissa, remaining there for two months. He took everything he wanted by force, and lived in an immoral manner. He at that time demanded all arrears of taxes, and imprisoned and beat the people when they were unable to pay.

17. For each arabe of hay, the price of which was 20 piastres, the Government of Bayazid required from 70 to 80 piastres as a tax; we appealed, but the Government would not listen to us.

18. All officials and escorts, wherever they go, take food for themselves and barley for their horses, without payment. If the people refuse to give it them they are called rebels.

19. All these things we believe to be through the influence of the Mutessarif, who spoke very unkindly to us when he first arrived; from that time the officials, as if acting by his orders, began to oppress us.

I sign to certify that these articles are quotations from our book, which is signed by all the chief Armenians.

(Signed) HOHANNES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 59.

Hohannes Vartabed to Captain Everett.

(Translation.)

Charitable Sir,

THE inclosed is a Table of the oppressions suffered by those of the Armenian nation living in Kara Kilissa and Alashgert during the years 1879-80-81, *i.e.*, the robberies, raids, and burglaries for the purpose of carrying off property, together with the burning of wheat-stacks and hay-ricks, committed by the resident and neighbouring Kurds; it also sets forth the dishonest actions of the Government, which are due to apathy and want of consideration, and which consist in the forced labour, without payment, of men, horses, carts, and beasts of burden, and in the obligatory nourishment of the officials and of Kurdish Chiefs.

The value of the losses sustained from these causes are written for each village at the rate of 200 piastres to the lira, according to the custom of these districts. With the Table I present to you a list of the horrible cruelties and murders committed by Kurds, and a few special paragraphs on the unseemly conduct of the Central Government.

I beg also to inform you that this Table is a true extract from an original document, authenticated by the seals of those of the Armenian nation who are living in these districts, and we present it to your Excellency's attention, authenticating it with our signature and seal. In it you will find written the amount of the terrible losses suffered by several hundred families in the space of two years only, families who at the same time have suffered greatly by war, emigration, and latterly by famine. In addition, the Government has enforced by the whip and other tyrannical measures the remainder of the taxes from the year 1292 to 1297 (1876 to 1881), together with the price of grain which had been given the people for sowing; this alone forms a sum of some thousand pounds. From a study of the Table which is now presented to your Excellency you may inform yourself of the pitiable state of the Armenians.

(Signed) HOHANNES.

Day of Month.		Values.
		Piastres.
	The Village of Karu Killisa.	
	Men requisitioned—	
	May 1, 4 men by the Kaïmakam (Sub-Prefect), hire = 26 prs.; and 3 men whom the Kaïmakam sent to Hanaul in one day, on the 16th June, one after another, hire = 15 prs.; by Osman Agha and his companions, 2 men, a journey of eight hours to the village of Giro, hire = 150 prs. Total	191
	Horses requisitioned—	
	March 2 to October 21, 28 horses were requisitioned, hire = 652 prs.; 2 horses were carried away from the stable of Semh Sahagian, which was destroyed by night, value 1,500 prs.; 4 horses were taken by Chanish Effendi for his wedding, and after the eighth day of the wedding they were returned, one having perished, loss and hire = 1,200 prs. Total loss	3,462
	Requisitioned carts—	
	Between March 1 and October 1, 8 carts were requisitioned, hire = 400 prs.; and 40 carts of brushwood were brought for the Kaïmakam in the autumn, hire = 800 prs.; and Mahomed and other officers requisitioned 50 carts to carry hay from the villagers, hire = 1,500 prs. Total	2,700
	Stolen and requisitioned oxen—	
	April 11, 1; December 1, 13 oxen were stolen, value 6,630 prs.; and 31 oxen were requisitioned, hire = 314 prs.; and 4 oxen were requisitioned by Ahmed and Ibrahim Effendis when they went to Bayazid; the oxen were returned from Dutlichu, but the packs and the carts were not brought, loss and hire = 230 prs. Altogether	7,174
	Stolen cows—	
	October 2, 5; September 6, 1 cows were stolen, the one by Kurds. Total value	1,340
	Stolen sheep—	
	September 1–8, 7 sheep were lost or stolen. Value	840
	Other animals stolen—	
	September 15–20, a he goat is stolen, value 180 prs., and a she buffalo, value 700 prs. Total value	880
	Other things stolen—	
	May 14 to August 5, 2 yokes were stolen with their harness from Haroutian Grigasian by night, value 400 prs.; and 50 pieces of wood were carried away and burnt from the church of the village of Injoe, destroying it, the value of which were 200 prs.; and Mahmood and Ahmed, officers, hired nine horses for fifteen months for their soldiers, and have not paid the hire, which was 3,600 prs.; and when Osman Agha and his companions were going from Mullah Suljoman to Bayazid they drove into the field of Sookey 30 horses, 25 carts, and 40 loaded oxen, causing a damage of 2,000 prs. Total loss	8,000
	A buffalo was stolen from Tchibookchi Hayob while grazing. Value ..	1,800
		26,377
	Oppression and Robbery at the Village of Yantchola.	
July 8	10 sheep were carried away by force by the Kurds	1,500
" 14	2 buffaloes were stolen by the same Kurds	2,000
" 19	1 ox was stolen	300
March 3	15 sheep were stolen out of a stable	1,500
" 8	1 horse was carried away by force by the servant of Hassan Boy, and it is yet at his house	1,800
" 10	1 horse was carried away by force by the Kurds of Hailer	700
" 10	4 oxen and cows were stolen	1,800
" 12	1 ox was stolen by the Kurds	400
December 5	5 carts of tezek carried from our village to Kara Killisa by the Kaïmakam ..	100
" 7	Taurel Effendi destroyed the house of Nerses	6,000
" 7	1 sheep was taken by force by Shukry Effendi	120
" 10	1 sheep was taken by Khalil Tchavish	200
" 18	4 okes of butter carried off by the Kaïmakam	80
" 6	2 okes of butter carried off by the Kaïmakam	40
" 8	4 carts of tezek were carried off by the Kaïmakam	500
" 8	3 carts of straw we carried for the soldiers	600
" 16	20 loads of straw we carried to Ghozan	200
" 16	15 loads of tezek carried away by the men of the Kaïmakam	150
" 30	7 loads of straw carried away by the servant of Ali Agha by force	140
November 8	20 loads of tezek carried away by the Zaptichs, who forced men, beating them, to carry it to Kara Killisa	
" 13	300 okes of straw Sulieman of the village of Pelumaka carried to the Kaïmakam	150
May 13	2 horses of two years old given hire to fulfil their pleasure	1,000
" 18	When Mahmoud Effendi went from Mullah Sulieman to Bayazid he took away with him 4 carts and 8 men for nineteen hours; the carts were broken and were not returned	1,500

Day of the Month.		Values.
		Piastres.
May 19	4 oxen and 6 men were compelled by the soldiers to go with them a distance of twelve hours	400
" 20	1 cart was taken by Hassan Tchaish to go a distance of nineteen hours ..	80
" 20	1 cart was compelled by Emin Effendi	30
November 20	Soldiers coming from Bayazid carried away by force 16 bundles of straw at the dearest time, each being worth a silver medjidié	240
" 20	A man named Kalil, a Tcherkez officer, coming from Erzeroum at the time of the famine, carried off 2 gals of wheat	160
" 20	4 oxen were hired to carry provisions to Van	700
" 20	8 oxen were hired to carry provisions to Van	800
" 20	5 oxen were hired to carry wheat to Van	500
" 20	5 oxen were hired to carry wheat to Bayazid	300
		24,186
	Oppression and Robbery at the Village of Ghazo.	
April 8	Hero of Bayazid carried away a horse; we informed the Government, who paid no attention to the matter	600
" 8	1 horse carried by force by Tchevontious	550
" 1	1 ox the Kurds of Korko took away in the daytime	590
" 18	8 sheep were stolen by boring a hole in the wall of the stable	800
September 4	The thieves attacked the field of Ree Salmy, and afterwards firing, destroyed the field and fled	2,000
" 8	1 ox was stolen at night	500
" 15	They entered the house of Hodsatree Haza and carried off all his goods ..	1,500
August 20	30 hayricks were burnt at night, and the Government never took the trouble to inquire about it	15,000
" 20	30 hayricks were burnt at night, and the Government never took the trouble to inquire about it	18,000
November	1 ox of Ohannes Artisian was stolen by the Kurds of the village of Lazo. They complained to the Government, and they burnt the next day the hay .	6,000
" 21	Four soldiers came from Mongert and took by force one Erzeroum gal of barley of Erzeroum at the time of famine	80
May 19	Lieutenant Mohamed and Ibrahim forced 3 carts to go with them to Bayazid	70
	Lieutenant Ibrahim drove 150 horses into a field of lucerne of Sahay and spoilt it	1,000
January 6	In the anxious time of winter we were obliged to take care of 20 mules of the soldiers, and provide for them as well	300
	We took care of 70 horses and 6 men for three days	360
February 8	For carrying wheat to Van we hired 8 oxen from the Kurds, and it was not paid	700
	Again we hired 7 oxen from the Kurds to carry Government wheat to Van and Bayazid without payment	450
		48,460
	Oppression and Robbery at the Village of Sofia.	
October 8	1 ox was stolen from the stable of Hoosp Manoyian	600
" 4	15 okes of butter stolen from the same man by the Kurds	300
	Mirkel Grigory was robbed near the village	400
	The neighbouring Kurd of Mirkel Ilo entered his house and carried away all his property by night.	1,500
		2,700
	Robberies and Oppressions at the Village of Mayassar.	
March 5	The house of Mirdo Bedaion was robbed by night	2,000
	2 oxen were taken from the house of George Simonian	1,000
" 10	1 ox was taken from the house of Kaspar	500
" 29	2 horses and a cow were taken from the house of Khikad	3,400
August 3	1 ox was taken from the field of Hagob Badeian	560
" 1	1 ox was killed in the field of Hamot Kasparian	800
" 28	The well of wheat of the priest Daniel was opened, and 16 sonars of wheat were carried off during the time of scarcity	4,800
	A carpet belonging to this priest was also stolen in the night	200
	2 carts of the same priest were carried off the next morning from the field ..	400
January 5	2 sheep of the same priest were carried off from the field	200
	Hossen Beg of Sahli, took away by force one idille from the same priest ..	360
July 4	6 loads of wheat belonging to Tatus Vartan were burnt	1,200
	From the wheat well of Hagob Kurkion 6 sonars of wheat were taken by night during the famine	1,200
	1 ox was taken from the same Hagob by force from his field	150
" 5	4 sheep were taken from the same Hagob from his field	400

Day of Month.			Values.
			Piastres.
July	21	2 sheep were taken from Nazirian Abdul by the Kurds	200
,,	12	The Kurds entered the house of Sarkis Monoyian, and carried off 22 okes of butter, 1 coomer of grain, and 300 piastres	1,000
,,	29	8 sheep were stolen by night from the flock of sheep belonging to the village ..	8,040
		8 carts of hay were carried away by force for the use of the Kaimakam ..	1,000
October	5	18 carts of hay and 20 fell were carried by force for the use of the Kaimakam ..	5,600
,,	6	2 carts of wood were carried by force for the use of the Kaimakam	180
,,	21	30 cart-loads of straw were carried away, the people to whom it belonged being taken	610
		3 carts of wood were carried to the Kaimakam, belonging some houses of the village	600
		4 carts of wood were carried to the Kaimakam, belonging to Mato Sarko and Isko, for fuel	1,360
		Tchorbee Yousef carried off 2 carts of wood and 4 carts of hay by force ..	660
		The Kaimakam took by force from us, the village, 400 piastres	400
February	..	On two occasions we were obliged to hire 20 oxen to go to Van with Government wheat	1,700
,,	10	We were obliged to hire 6 oxen to carry grain to Bayazid	850
			34,320

Robbery and Oppression at Haygran.

March	1	10 coomars of grain the Kurds have taken out of the well of Mellon	1,945
,,	20	1 cow taken while grazing by the Kurds	200
,,	31	12 sheep stolen by the Kurds	800
,,	15	The village were compelled to hire 7 oxen to carry grain from Bayazid to Aleshgirt	170
May	5	10 loads of straw soldiers of Bayazid took away by force	150
November	1	1 carts of hay were carried off by force	300
		The Kaimakam of Kara Kilissa having ordered 20 loads of straw to be placed upon two carts, a buffalo died as they were going to Kara Kilissa ..	1,000
		9 sheep were carried off by the Kurds	960
		We were obliged to hire 11 oxen from the Kurds to carry Government grain to Van, 1,500 okes of grain, and 6 oxen to carry grain to Bayazid ..	1,550
			8,056

Robbery and Oppression at the Village.

January	10	8 oxen were stolen by the Kurds	5,905
December	8	2 cows and 2 sheep were stolen	371
		We were obliged to hire from the Kurds to carry Government grain to Van and Bayazid	890
			7,727

The Village of Khodut.

February	3	7 carts of hay were carried by the Kaimakam of Kara Kilissa with our carts and animals	600
,,	18	35 loads of straw were carried by the Kaimakam of Kara Kilissa	460
March	13	The Kaimakam took away all the wood-work from the house of Mugoo for fuel ..	1,800
,,	26–27	The houses of Manoi Arkon, that of Yeshk Carol, and that of Kesho, were destroyed, and the materials carried away, as also the house of Hayab Tavitioy	2,900
May	..	1 horse ridden by a Zaptieh for 27 hours dying on the return	1,840
,,	15	Thieves entered by night into the house of Bey Hagob and stole his goods, as well as the furniture of the church	4,675
,,	18	The Kurds stole the tools of the mill belonging to the above-mentioned Hacon,	100
June	6	1 sheep were stolen from the stable of the above-mentioned Hacon	400
,,	19	2 oxen were stolen from the house of Manoog Sarcian by Kurds	600
,,	23	The neighbouring Kurds carried off 12 okes of butter from Sairay	450
August	4	The Kaimakam of the canton carried off 12 loads of straw by force	300
,,	9	The Kurds burnt the hayrick (25 loads) of Bey Hayab	1,800
,,	10	The hayrick (15 loads) of Manoog Shatz was burnt	2,100
,,	19	The Boy of the village of Ascot carried a cart away by force	121
December	18	2 sheep were taken by force by the Kaimakam of Kara Kilissa as food for the soldiers	240
,,	10	Three Kurds carried away 7 okes of butter	125
January	8	The soldiers carried away 500 okes of straw	112
,,	16	Soldiers coming from Bayazid in the winter carried away 6 load of straw, a load costing 1 medjidie	250
		When Mahomed Effendi was going from Mulish Sultanate to Bayazid he requisitioned 4 oxen, three of which were returned, but 1 is supposed perished	1,500

Day of Month.			Values.
			Piastres.
December	9	To carry Government grain to Van we were obliged to hire oxen at the rate of 7 roubles apiece	300
January	10	Again, to carry Government grain to Van, we were obliged to hire 3 oxen at the rate of 7 roubles apiece	250
February	20	We were obliged to hire from the Kurds 4 oxen to carry grain to Van ..	320
April	8	We were obliged to hire from the Kurds 2 oxen to carry grain to Bayazid ..	200
March	15	Wheat soldiers were coming from Erzeroum they requisitioned a cart till Khapos	60
		2 oxen requisitioned by Hamid Bey	80
			21,079

Robbery and Oppression at Village of Mutsa.

		3 loads of hay the Kaimakam took from our village, and sent with our carts and animals to Kara Kilissa	500
		Together with 12 loads of wood	840
		2 oxen were stolen from Soor	800
		1 cow was stolen from Haseo	200
		The Kurds in the neighbourhood entered the house of Soor and plundered it ..	200
		The Kurds entered the house of Hano and plundered it	840
		1 sheep were stolen from Priest Luzmane	640
		The Kurds burnt 10 loads of hay belonging to Res Hosa	400
		12 carts of hay belonging to Soor's were burnt by Kurds living in the neighbourhood	2,480
		2 carts of hay belonging to Mardiros were burnt by the Kurds	..
		The Kaimakam of Kara Kilissa took 6 okes of butter for use of the soldiers ..	..
		And 1 sheep and 100 okes of straw for the same soldiers	120
		We were obliged to hire 1 oxen to carry grain to Van	250
		Again, we were obliged to hire 3 oxen to carry grain to Van	300
		Again, we were obliged to hire 3 oxen to carry grain to Van	340
		Again, we were obliged to hire 3 oxen to carry grain to Van	270
		Again, we were obliged to hire 3 oxen to carry grain to Bayazid	100
		4 okes of butter and 20 okes of cheese were taken for the use of soldiers coming from Erzeroum	150
			8,010

The Village of Ivitsa.

March	4	1 ox was stolen from Ohar Hyunion	800
		1 horse was stolen from Res Dirateigo by the Kurds	1,100
		2 oxen were stolen from Megerditch Gumbedian by the Kurds	850
		1 ox was carried off by force from Minas Gregasian by the Kurds	500
		1 ass was stolen from Kri by the Kurds	260
		1 ox was carried off by force from Elo, by a Kurd named Pahavit	250
		1 horse was stolen from Bacho Kasparian by the Kurds	2,000
		1 horse was carried from Khlat Rhodoian by a Kurd named Polat	3,500
		The Kurds in the neighbourhood robbed the house of Varton	8,500
		2 cows were stolen from Kasparian Megerditch by the Kurds	2,150
		1 ox and its chain was carried off by force by the Owner of Osman Agha ..	670
		1 horse was carried away by force from Dabo by Osman Petahedian	2,800
		1 ox was stolen from Peter Kasparian by the Kurds of the village	100
		3 houses of Sarkis Kasparian were destroyed, and the materials carried away by Mehod Agha	2,950
		The houses of Murroog's Sahet were destroyed by the Kaimakam for fuel ..	1,600
		1 bundle of hay the Kaimakam carried away by force for his own use	521
		The Kaimakam requisitioned 7 oxen and 8 men for 5 days	230
		The Kaimakam requisitioned 2 horses to go to the district of Mozgard for 10 days	100
September	29	The Kaimakam took away by force 10 okes of butter	230
,,	15	The Kaimakam took away by force 5 okes of butter from Gregor Daday ..	800
November	28	We carried 2,000 okes of straw for the use of soldiers of Kara Kilissa ..	500
		We carried 500 okes of straw for the use of the soldiers of Kara Kilissa ..	120
		We carried 5,000 okes of straw for the use of the soldiers of Kara Kilissa ..	750
		We carried 10 okes of butter and 1 okes of oil for the same soldiers	370
January	15	10 oxen and 2 carts were requisitioned to carry the grass from our fields for three consecutive days	810
		The same soldiers requisitioned 6 oxen for 12 hours	160
,,	1	We were obliged to hire 4 oxen, for 24 carykes of grain, to carry Government grain to Van	300
February	1	We were obliged to hire 4 oxen, for 24 carykes of grain, to carry Government grain to Van	300
May	6	We were obliged to hire 4 oxen, for 24 carykes of grain, to carry Government grain to Van	300
		16 officers remained in the villages, and lived, with their horses, at the expense of the people	300

Day of the Month.		Values.
		Piastres.
	The same soldiers requisitioned 4 carts to Khoon	80
	15 okes of butter were stolen from the house of Bazay	300
		46,681
	The Village of Ermis.	
	7 houses of this village were destroyed, the materials being carried away by force by Kurds who are well known	9,760
	The church of our village was destroyed by the Kalmakam of Kara Kilissa and burnt	2,240
	7 soumars of grain were taken out of the well of George Malkhos	600
	30 loads of teszk and wood were carried away for use of the Kalmakam of Kara Kilissa	240
		12,720
	The Borough of Alashgert.—Toprik-Kalch.	
May 8	(Lonny) Djenny, with his companions, plundered the house of Virdi, and raped his daughter	3,800
„ 15	They entered and plundered the house of Brahim Agha Mgrdichion	4,200
„ 23	The (Lonny) of Djenny entered, with his companions, and plundered the house of Bertegi Vartan	910
„ 25	2 sheep were stolen from the house of (Pahantekh)	190
„ 26	1 oxen of (Nalband) Sookey were carried off from the fields, the boy in charge being wounded by Kurds	1,100
June 6	The Lonnny of Djenny took away from Haro Eghayan 6 sheep	800
„ 27	20 sheep were stolen from Mirabi Hasab by the neighbouring Kurds ..	2,400
	12 sheep were carried away by force from Gokey-Vartanian by Sahan Jusoof and Mustafa zabtias	1,200
	4 oxen were stolen from the field of Ghrib Chevy by the Kurds	1,640
	2 oxen were stolen from the field of Ghrib Chevy by the Kurds	600
	Thieves entered the shop of clerk Peter and plundered it	40,800
	The hayrick of (Nalband), horse-shoer Lokey, 120 loads, = 10,640 prs.; the hayrick of Hovnnes Rikordi, 95 loads, = 2,500 prs.; the hayrick of Miri Li' Hasab, 8 loads, = 800 prs.; the hayrick of Nahabed, — loads, = 400 prs.; that of Shoraph Minas, — loads, = 600 prs.; the hayrick of the son of Virdo, 12 loads, = 1,200 prs.; the hayrick of Karabed, 4 loads, = 400 prs.; the hayrick of Minas Djoogy, 14 loads, = 1,400 prs.; Kaspar Mikhayan's hayrick, 25 loads, = 2,500 prs, were burnt by the neighbouring Kurds. The total loss is	29,440
	2 loads of barley and grain were also stolen from the house of Avedis Agha by the Kurds	200
		78,240
	The Village of Khachlo.	
September 12	2 cows were taken by force from the field of Grigory Peterion by Kurds ..	800
	7 sheep were stolen from the widow of Aday	760
	1 ox was taken by force from the field of Grigory Peterion	540
	They have destroyed the house of Melik Mikhayan, and 7 oxen and 3 cows were carried off	2,800
	1 cow was carried off from the stable of Sahay Aday	420
June ..	7 sheep were carried off from the field of Melkay Dogob	1,308
	1 cow and 2 oxen were carried from Peyhon Mesadi's field	1,100
July ..	1 ox and 2 cows were carried off from Vartan's field	760
	3 sheep were carried off from Avak Aivay's field by Kurds	420
	3 oxen and 1 cow belonging to Sarkyan Ale were carried off from the herd ..	1,200
	2 sheep were stolen from the priest Melkesetsis	1,100
August ..	45 sheep were stolen from the field of Ros Engé and of his neighbour ..	4,500
	1 ox and 2 cows were stolen from Peter Anedis and Gingos	1,200
December 6	3 carts of straw were carried away by the Government for their horses ..	1,200
	1,000 okes of straw were carried away for the use of the soldiers at Mullah Suleiman	600
	1,880 okes of straw were carried away by the Cadi and the Kalmakam ..	400
January 16	1 sheep was carried away by force by the Kalmakam	150
	Mikhran Mouhamed Agha requisitioned 5 carts and 30 oxen for a journey of six hours	400
February 5	In this year of 1881 they forced us to carry grain to the castle. For this purpose we were obliged to use 18 carts for 1,500 prs.	1,500
October 8	For carrying the grain of the village, we having no oxen, we were obliged to hire 12 oxen for 1,200 prs. from the Kurds. In carrying it to Bayazid the grain shrunk; for that reason the Government took from us 1,200 prs. ..	2,400
		23,648

Day of Month.		Values.
		Piastres.
	The Village of Komith.	
April 8	4 cows and 2 oxen were taken by force from the field of Ghazian Minas and of his neighbour by the Kurds	2,480
	7 sheep were carried away by force from Haroutian and Megerditch Garvis by Kurds	2,800
May 22	2 oxen were stolen from the stable of Baghos Garabet by the Kurds	960
„ 10	6 oxen were stolen from the field of Kliche Anny	2,400
„ 18	7 oxen were stolen from the stable of Simon Houkonnes Bachin by the Kurds	2,860
„ 26	11 oxen and cows were stolen by night from Nayar Sarkis Arsashad by the Kurds	3,120
January 9	The house of Sarkis and Peires was plundered by thieves	2,600
„ 11	Thieves entered the house of Khalyland and plundered it	860
„ 24	The house of Parsokh Anedisian was robbed	420
„ 23	6 sheep were carried off from the field of Parsokh Vartan	1,838
July 30	3 sheep were carried off from Baghos Gaspar by the Kurds	600
„ 23	1 cow of Ghoshi Ghazar was stolen	320
	2 oxen of Minas Vartan were stolen	820
	3 oxen of Ghorgis Baghos were stolen	1,360
	7 oxen and cows of Ghyn Desighio were stolen	2,100
	5 cows of Apter Mourad were stolen	780
	1 calf of Poroy Ghazar was stolen	120
	4 oxen of Kuleho Markor were stolen	1,320
	3 oxen of B. Ghazar, Melik were stolen	1,200
November 30	1 ox of Minas Tamdjos was stolen	290
„ 18	130 horses were destroyed by Khatoon for fuel	52,000
January 2	200 carts of hay were carried away till the spring by Rakitsone Agha ..	8,000
	A field of 20 loads was taken by Khatoon Aylins for their animals	2,300
	Also 14 loads of lucerne for the same purpose	3,200
	Also 1 cow and 1 ox from Mogerditch	400
	To carry grain to Bayazid we were obliged to hire 20 oxen from the Kurds ..	1,200
	Also 10 oxen to Van from the Kurds for carrying grain	1,000
	We were obliged to hire in the spring 8 oxen at 70 piastres a-piece	560
		96,510
	The Village of Ghaza Bey.	
July 5	The house of Gorgin Hagob was robbed	780
„ 11	1 ox was stolen from Vrohig Hagob by Kurds	300
„ 13	1 ox was carried off from the field of Ters Ghazar	420
„ 21	The house of Mourad Mouseyian was robbed	2,631
„ 21	1 ox was stolen from the field of Kevorn Baghos by Kurds	300
October 20	11 sheep were plundered from Baghos Garabet and from his neighbours ..	4,830
	The hayrick of Ispire Simonian, that of Tyran Ohannes, that of Kaspar Saligian, that of Hagob, Mangos, and the stack and rick of hay of Mikhitar Manyserian were burnt	11,130
December 10	500 okes of straw and 12 loads of tezek were carried to the soldiers at Mullah Suleiman	500
„ 16	2 sheep were stolen by Mahmoud, robber	300
	The same soldiers, when they were going to Bayazid from Mullah Suleiman, requisitioned 17 oxen and buffaloes for an eight-hours' journey, beating the people	560
April 21	We were obliged to carry grain to Bayazid, having 34 oxen and buffaloes: the hire was	2,000
February 10	For the hire of oxen from the Kurds to carry grain to Van	1,000
		24,750
	The Village Hachlialy.	
	1 sheep was carried away from the hill of Artin Ahie	160
	The house of the son, Arkee, was entered and plundered	500
	1 ox was stolen from Miro	560
	7 sheep were stolen from Shayar Haro and Sarkis by the Kurds of Hadji Safer ..	4,500
		5,720
	The Village of Tritsin	
April 16	The house of Mikhitar [illegible] was robbed	500
„ 21	The [illegible] was robbed	780
„ 28	The house of Mardo was robbed by night	270
May 11	The [illegible] was robbed	160
„ 13	The [illegible] Mouradian was robbed	620
„ 18	The house of Mihil Mikhitar was robbed	340

Day of Month.			Values.
			Piastres.
July	2	The house of Hanbarnes was robbed	530
October	16	1 ox was carried from Minas Hosep by the Kurds	300
,,	10	2 cows were stolen from Serap Mikelian by the Kurds of Martgart village ..	450
August	6	6 calves were carried from Grayos Hoshannian by the Khaton Oghlus ..	600
September	4	1 ox and 2 cows were carried from Kalustian Peter by the Kurds	640
October	1	2 oxen were stolen from Minos Nerses	450
September	9	1 calf was stolen from Peter Kalost	100
		2 cows were stolen from Khacho Zakar	400
		2 cows were stolen from Kapriel Mooradian	760
		2 calves were stolen from Mikel Serapion	300
		1 cow and 2 oxen were stolen from Mamoov Sahradinan	350
		3 animals were stolen from Mamoov Misray	1,000
		7 animals were stolen from Ohannes Koroian	1,890
		2 oxen were stolen from Avak Monoogian	800
		2 oxen were stolen from Mikaiel Nujoyheian	960
May	12	We were obliged to hire 5 oxen from the Kurds to carry Government grain to Bayazid	1,500
September	19	We were obliged to hire 6 oxen from the Kurds to carry Government grain to Bayazid	450
November	24	We were obliged to hire 10 oxen from the Kurds to carry Government grain to Bayazid	1,250
			15,300

The Villages of Tehlgatun and Kvosso.

				Values.
October	8	2 oxen and a cow were carried away from Sepetion Malkhas by Kurds ..		1,210
April	11	The house of Mamoov Khoro was burglariously entered by night		2,810
,,	16	The house of Hagob Doro was burglariously entered by night		3,228
,,	21	The house of Arak Dayhiany was burglariously entered by night		2,200
May	11	2 oxen were carried away from the field of Minas Vartanian		800
,,	15	The hayrick of Serkis Aspetian was burnt by the Kurds		800
September	8	The hayricks of Mamoov Khanonian, and Safar Avoians Ohan Magditeliun's, and Megerdich Mkrtchi's were burnt at the same		5,800
,,	5	2 cows were stolen from Vartan Minasian ..	All these were stolen by the Kurds of Mirzeo	750
,,	9	2 cows were stolen from Hagob Kasparian ..		600
,,	24	7 oxen were stolen from Mamoy Khuniy ..		2,350
August	6	2 young oxen were stolen from Nerses Grigory ..		450
,,	15	5 sheep were stolen from Parsekh Vartonian ..		300
,,	9	1 cow was stolen from Imrol Sarkis		200
January	3	3 cows were stolen from Honé Superioti ..		600
,,	6	2 calves were stolen from Ounro Khoorshoodlun ..		360
,,	14	1 ox was stolen from Mamoy Sahagian		430
,,	23	2 oxen were stolen from Moses Megerdichian ..		860
		5 calves were stolen from Honé Serkey		1,371
		1 cow was stolen from Vartan Mamogian ..		360
February	6	The Kurds of Khizi stole 72 okes of butter from Posehion Sarkis		1,400
		The villagers of Chali carried off 7 loads of wheat and barley		850
		The son of Bayon carried 1 cetyles of linseed		80
		5 cetyles of grain was stolen from Nito-Mamoy		100
January	20	The inspectors and other Government officers frequented our village; from August till the end of January gave their animals 10 loads of barley ..		1,000
May	15	3 carts and 12 oxen were requisitioned for a journey of 17 hours		468
		480 okes of meat, 12 loads of straw, and 1 sheep were taken for the use of the soldiers at Mullah Suleiman		800
February	9	We were obliged to hire 10 oxen to carry grain to Van		1,500
,,	20	We were obliged to hire 4 oxen to carry grain to Van		400
				31,750

The Village of Khashoor.

			Values.
			Piastres.
September	2	A cow and an ox by the villagers of Eesef stole from Serkis Glayar and Megerdich Hosef	700
,,	8	1 calf was stolen from Minas Sarkis	210
		4 oxen were stolen from Martin Tatosian from the same village by Kurds ..	1,860
		3 oxen were stolen from Serkis Avdis by Bahlo son of Moloom Karul ..	1,860
		1 ox was stolen from Grigory Kasper and Suleiman	260
,,	14	At night the house of Bagloo was robbed by the sons of Shamd Effendi ..	2,800
,,	18	The Kurds of Alvarish robbed the house of Sefer Avsham	2,400
,,	26	The Kurds robbed the house of Ghazoo Bagloo	2,330
May	16	1 calf was carried off from Pilvin Aghego	200
,,	21	1 cow was carried off from Garabet Gaco	150
,,	30	1 ox was carried off from George Amroo	400
October	14	1 ox was carried off from Bagho-Sagho	260
,,	26	1 young ox was carried off from Mkhoin	150
,,	26	1 young ox was carried off from Horon Toonas by Kurds	160

Day of Month.			Values.
			Piastres.
May	29	7 cows and a young ox and oxen were carried off from Ohannes Kayar by Kurds	2,860
,,	27	3 oxen stolen from Tchalo Amedee	1,260
		1 ox was stolen from Hayot Meill by Kurds	410
		1 ox was stolen from Res Chanu by Kurds	400
		The cart of Haro by the Kurds	800
		1 ox was stolen from Res Chanu by Topollalt Yusof	260
		2 oxen were stolen from Apraham Grigory	900
		1 ox was stolen from Res Kospar	300
		2 sheep were stolen from Hosep by Abas villagers	200
		10 hayricks were used by the cavalry	400
		10 hayricks taken from Baghos	400
		16 hayricks taken from Ohannes Aprik	400
		Mehamed Effendi is going to Bayazid from Mullah Suleiman with soldiers ..	600
		Requisitioned 4 carts and 12 oxen to go with him there	280
		At another time he requisitioned 6 oxen for a journey of 6 hours	170
,,	24	4 carts carrying packages to Bayazid	200
		20 oxen carrying grain to Bayazid	600
			25,160

The Village of Khoshan.

			Values.
			Piastres.
September	3	15 hayricks belonging to Khadedo were burnt by Shamil Ismail, same villagers	1,500
,,	3	8 hayricks belonging to Abdul were burnt by same villagers	800
,,	16	3 sheep were stolen from Khreto by the village Kurds	300
August	18	6 sheep were stolen from Abdul by the village Kurds	600
,,	21	1 cow was carried away from the field of Hagob Bagdalo-or	200
,,	30	The straw shed of Khadedo was burnt	2,310
July	4	1 cow was stolen from Avedis Mashoo	260
,,	13	3 sheep were stolen	300
,,	26	1 ox was stolen from Sakay of Van	300
October	6	2 goats were stolen from Abdalli	450
,,	21	20 hayricks of Khoh o 21 hayricks of Abdul, 15 hayricks of Mardo, 10 hayricks of Bey Mando, 3 hayricks of Mikail, 19 hayricks of Mosad, 8 hayricks of Gardesk, 5 hayricks of Khurkhad, were burnt by the same villagers .	10,100
November	14	10 oxen to carry grain to Bayazid = 600 pes.; 10 oxen from the Kurds to carry grain to Van = 1,200 pes.	1,800
		6 oxen to carry grain to Van	400
		1 ox was requisitioned to go to Bayazid	240
			19,489

The Village of Mullah Suleiman.

			Values.
			Piastres.
April	6	1 horse was carried from Haroutian Shoni	600
,,	8	1 young ox was stolen from Mekon	200
,,	15	The house of Kayob Garabet was robbed	624
,,	20	5 sheep were carried away from the field of Baghes	600
		1 cow was stolen from Paroosh Mamy	270
		1 young ox was stolen from Garabet Goray	260
May	2	1 horse was stolen from Varto Mehaid	800
,,	8	3 cows were stolen from Tuaro Aprik	900
		1 ox was stolen from Hosep Andoy by neighbouring Kurds	300
		2 cows were stolen from Mase Aprik by neighbouring Kurds	150
		The house of Megerdich was robbed by neighbouring Kurds	920
		The house of Eggo Melik was robbed by neighbouring Kurds	2,340
		The house of Haro Meki was robbed by neighbouring Kurds	1,670
October	2	The house of Mordiros Mosa was robbed by neighbouring Kurds	2,625
,,	11	6 sheep and a calf were stolen from Aghey Stich by neighbouring Kurds ..	300
,,	19	10 sheep and 1 ox were stolen from Toonas Sarkis by neighbouring Kurds ..	700
,,	21	3 sheep and 1 cow were stolen from Grigory Bahlo by neighbouring Kurds ..	900
September	6	3 oxen were stolen from Kerot Avdal by neighbouring Kurds	900
,,	17	2 sheep and 1 calf were stolen from Goar Vartan by neighbouring Kurds ..	200
,,	18	3 sheep were stolen from Sir Mikaiten	300
,,	21	3 sheep and 1 ox were stolen from Peter Arabajio by neighbouring Kurds ..	280
October	5	2 sheep were carried from Megerdich Sha a by the Kurds	200
		7 sheep were stolen from Agaiban Dino by the Kurds	300
		1 cow was stolen from Sir priest Peter by the Kurds	240
		1 cow was stolen from the convent Klanee by the Kurds	300
		3 calves were stolen from Baghos Dano by the Kurds	200
		1 ox was stolen from Hodjy Vardal by the Kurds	400
		6 sheep were stolen from priest Peter by the Kurds of the village of Kamir ..	300
		1 ox was stolen from Mankar Seis by the village of Kibagh	400

Day of Month.		Values.
		Piastres.
October 8	10 hayricks of Apraham Agho .. }	1,000
	2 hayricks of Atrik Nehoy .. .. }	200
	8 hayricks of Bes-Kiulk .. .. }	800
	10 hayricks of Baghadsor Gasdyian .. } All burnt by the Kurds of the	1,000
	13 hayricks of Jimmi Mikrigh .. .. } village of Komedu.	1,300
	12 hayricks of priest Peter .. .. }	1,200
	13 hayricks of Grigory Bedgomian .. }	1,300
	6 hayricks of Baghos Mudo .. .. }	600
	The Kurds have reaped the field of Grigory Turpinion which contained 4 somars of grain, and produced 20 somars	2,000
August 18	Another barley field of the same Grigory was reaped by the Kurds at night, it contained 5 somars of barley and produced 25 somars	1,500
.. 25	A field of Baghos Mudo was reaped at night by the Kurds, which contained 4 somars grain and produced 20 somars	2,000
	A field of Garabet Mkay was reaped at night by the Kurds, which contained 3 somars barley and produced 15 somars	1,500
	The Kurds reaped the field of Apraham Agho which contained 3 somars of barley	1,500
	The Kurds reaped the field of Grigory Agho which contained 4 somars of barley	2,000
	The Kurds reaped the field of Koosbig Mii Aghu which contained 4 somars of barley	2,000
		30,200
	The Military Oppressions.	
August 8	Rapeition Mustafa Effendi took by force from us 7 Turkish liras	700
	When Mihazin Mehemed Effendi went from here to Bayazid, requisitioned 9 carts, 36 oxen, 18 men, for 18 hours of way, of Ghadgan ..	600
	The same Mihazin requisitioned again 6 carts, 6 oxen, and 2 men till the village	120
	The soldiers took from us 20 ratyles of barley at the time of Emine, beating us.	2,000
	Also the same soldiers requisitioned 2 carts, 4 oxen, and 4 men, and for three months eat our grass without paying anything	2,360
	We were obliged to give 20 carts of wood to the same soldiers	1,200
	The Mihazin commanding the soldiers cut the water off from the fields for 15 days. The crops were thus dried up and much injury was done ..	12,000
	For carrying Government grain to Van we were obliged to hire 30 oxen from the Kurds, each for 4 ratyles of grain	3,000
		21,980
	The Village of Ploor (hilly).	
January 1	The house of Kotcho Katchotun was entered at night and robbed	2,725
.. 8	The Kurds robbed the house of Nayuri Hogat	1,280
.. 9	The Kurds destroyed the stable of Anelis Bartin, and carried off all the sheep.	1,700
	1 ox was carried away from the same man while grazing by the Kurds ..	200
	1 cow was carried away from Avac Horo	800
	2 oxen were carried away from Grigory Boghdasar	800
	1 young ox was carried away from priest Megerdich	100
	1 young cow was carried away from Vartan	150
	15 sheep were carried away from Ohannes Mikhtor	150
	7 sheep were carried away from Grigory Mardiros	700
	2 oxen and 1 cow were carried away from Grigory Mardiros	964
	The house of Grigory Mardiros was robbed	2,700
	1 calf was carried away from Garabet Eghia	150
	2 oxen were carried away from Seyn Ohannes	1,200
	The hayrick of Ohannes Mikitar was burnt	5,800
	2 oxen were carried away from Grigory Agha	800
	The hayrick of Garabet Eyho was burnt	2,000
November 12	To carry grain to Bayazid we were obliged to hire 10 oxen from the Kurds, each for 5 ratyles of grain	1,250
December 13	Again, we hired 10 oxen for the same purpose	1,250
	Again, we were obliged to carry grain to Van, and for this purpose hired 12 oxen	600
		23,202
	The Village of Tchadgan.	
May 4	The Kurds stole 870 prs. from Ohannes Mouradion	870
" 6	The Kurds stole a calf from Bibiatune	100
	The Kurds stole an ox from Bushbiatune	300
	The Kurds stole a cow from Arshad Ghazar	220
	The Kurds robbed the house of Arshad Ghazar	2,316

Day of Month.		Values.
		Piastres.
	The Kurds robbed the house of Ghazar Toros	1,500
	The Kurds robbed the house of Tatas Astodzur	850
	The Kurds robbed the house of Sahay Tunié	200
	The Kurds robbed the house of Ivos Minas	800
	The Kurds robbed the house of Vartan Mouradian	2,210
	The Kurds robbed the house of Jukar Baghosian	600
	The Kurds robbed the house of Gorabitian Grigory	2,125
	The Kurds robbed the house of Hagob Kos	700
	1 cow was carried off from Hayutian Ghazar, and his hayrick was burnt ..	1,200
	2 young oxen were carried off from Markar Mkho	400
	2 oxen were carried off from Grigory Khacho	1,200
	2 oxen were carried off from Manoog Mardiros	800
	2 oxen were carried off from Aspolar Hagob	600
	1 young ox was carried off from Sahay Tounjé	150
	1 cow was carried off from Ivos Manoog	200
December 4	2 calves were carried off from Vartan Murad	80
	2 calves were carried off from Baghos Zakar	180
	2 cows were carried off from Carapet Grigory	480
	2 cows were carried off from Melkon Kaspar	480
	2 oxen were carried off from Apraham Mkhr	940
	2 oxen and a cow were carried off from Hagob Sarkis	
	4 sheep were carried off from Hagob Sarkey by the Kurds	1,610
	1 cow and 2 sheep were carried off from Manoog Ivos	
	2 horses and 6 sheep were carried off from Manoog Istepan	450
May 6	3 oxen and 3 sheep were carried off from Arten	1,560
" 7	7 sheep and 4 cows were carried off from Grigos Megerdichen	820
" 8	7 sheep and 5 oxen were carried off from Hagob Haroutun	1,600
" 25	1 cow was carried off from Gregos Jukar	1,810
" 21	4 sheep and 2 oxen were carried off from Moses Grigory	230
November ..	From Mukay Ivasis a cow was carried off by the Kurds	1,200
	5 calves were stolen from Manoog Murdo by the Kurds	400
	1 ox was stolen from Garabet Baghos by the Kurds	400
	1 ox was stolen from Gorgos Megerdich by the Kurds	300
	1 cow was stolen from Joseph by the Kurds of the village Ranguas	300
	4 goats were stolen from Kosjar Megery by the Kurds of the village Ranguas ..	300
	2 ox was stolen from Tenoy by the Kurds of the village Ranguas	600
	1 sheep were carried away from Kaspar Hagob by Kurds	200
	The Kurds burnt the straw shed of Avesbed, and 12 hayricks; the value of the things which were in the straw shed	400
August ..	The Kurds also attacked his stock, and carried off 4 somars of barley and a cow	4,500
	They burnt the 12 hayricks of the horse-shoer	500
	The 5 thermé nicks of Arakel were burnt	1,000
	In this village from August till January 1832 somars of barley the officers and the gendarmes took to feed their animals	500
" 15	The Bichashi Gulluck took away 2 loads of grain	1,200
June 10	20 oxen for carrying grain to Bayazid	120
February ..	For carrying grain to Van in 1831 we were obliged to hire 10 oxen from the Kurds for 15 ratyles	500
		1,875
		43,857
	The Village of River-Bazar.	
November 15	8 lambs were stolen from Mylik by the neighbouring Kurds	220
	2 horses were stolen from Hagob Vartan by the neighbouring Kurds	1,670
	7 oxen were stolen by Kurds named Ehayé Eyhoy at the field	4,300
	2 horses were carried away from Priest Apel while grazing	1,800
	1 sheep were stolen from Hagob Vartan while grazing by Kurds	400
	The Government required from us in the winter 2 carts of hay, and we having no hay, were obliged to buy for them 60 trusses of hay, at 1 medjidié the truss	
" 16	Mevlud Effendi, Mihazin, bearing Mouradjan's order, and lecturing the hand of his son, requisitioned 7 oxen, but did not return either the packages or the cords, driving them for 11 hours	2,400
	The Government requisitioned 6 oxen [illegible] 3 hours delay	1,420
" 22	1 cow and 1 ox were stolen, = 600 prs.; and a cow was stolen from Misak Nersé, = 500 prs.; and a cow was stolen from Saykom Atom, = 300 prs.; total	124
	1 cow was stolen from Mouksé Hulio	1,100
	2 buffaloes were stolen from the priest Tomos	300
January 6	A Mihazin, named Dali Toran, with 60 horsemen, coming from Van, besides living upon us, took 2 somars of grain in packages, and carried it away ..	1,800
" 14	The Colonel who marked out the new frontier came here with 30 cavalry soldiers, and took by force 2 somars of barley, 10 okes of butter, and 1 somar of flour and wheat-meal, during the famine	1,000
		1,700

Day of Month.		Values.
		Piastres.
February ..	The Mufti of Bayazid came here with 50 horsemen, and took from us 3 cantyles of barley, 6 okes of butter, and 1 sonar of flour	600
March ..	Cavalry soldiers requisitioned from Bayazid 7 oxen, and 10 hours' journey towards Bayazid	180
		19,374
	The Village of Djoudjan.	
July 28	180 of our oxen, horses, and sheep carried off. The men of Haiderion Deshd and of Mirza Agha attacked us, and they also took by force the dresses and gold necklaces of the women who were going to the field	128,800
August 16	The house of Persée Haroutiun was robbed	876
„ 21	The house of Peter Norsoy was robbed	2,800
	The hayrick of Persée Haroutiun was burnt	500
	The house of Murdo Mirza was robbed	500
September 8	The house of Nevo Kocho was robbed	836
February ..	During the winter, when a load of straw was sold for a medjidié, the Government required from us 140 loads of straw, and as we had no straw we were obliged to buy from Kurds at the same price, and give him	3,340
„ 6	At that time also the Kaimakam took from us 5 loads of hay	2,100
	When Mehemed Effendi was going from Mullah Suleiman to Bayazid he requisitioned 8 oxen, and drove them to Bayazid	280
	13 sheep and cows were stolen from Ros Artin by the Kurds	2,340
	4 oxen and 1 cow were stolen from Zakoy Aidig by the Kurds	2,000
	1 ox was stolen from Mamoay Khacho by the Kurds	500
	8 sheep were stolen from Serkis Djodjo by the Kurds	640
	12 sheep were stolen from Seniay by the Kurds	900
	1 cow and 2 oxen were stolen from Bedros Nersoy by the Kurds	1,940
	3 cows were stolen from Vartan Goro by the Kurds	1,200
	7 sheep were stolen from Murdo by the Kurds	700
	9 sheep were stolen from Khotcho Mutcmenel	900
	5 sheep were stolen from Mamoay Khacho by the Kurds	500
		150,002
	305 animals were plundered at the villages of Mugsou and Koron in the 10th August, 1880, but not having any particular Table we have assessed the damage at about	60,000
	The total number of animals shown in this Table as having been stolen are 1,020 horses, oxen, bullocks, and cows, during one year and a-half ..	805,314

(Signed) JOHN, *Archdeacon of the Sandjak of Bayazid.*

201 oxen were taken from the Armenians on the 11th May, 1881, to carry grain to Bayazid from the Government granary at Alashgert, for the use of the soldiers, viz.:—

	No. of Oxen.
From Toprak Kaleh	20
„ Khoobiss	18
„ Hamid	12
„ Tilson	8
„ Ghaya Bey	10
„ Aghiatoon	21
„ Tchlsiny	19
„ Khesdour	25
„ Tchedgon	13
„ Khoshon	10
„ Mullah Soliemen	30
„ Gheroz	6
„ Ashkaleh	10
	201

And 384 oxen are shown in the original Table carrying grain to Van and Bayazid during one year. All these were hired with the money and grain of the people, and the amount, 58,500 piastres; deducting 23,260 piastres, the hire of 585 oxen from the part of the Government, a sum of 35,240 piastres remains.

Armenians who have been killed, wounded, or assaulted in the districts of Kara Kilissa and Alashgert:—

Two young men were killed in the mountains near the village of Amad by two Kurds of Amad, named Nemoy and Ali.

Asayan Khachodoor, of the village of Iritsoo, Vartan Markorion, of the village of Kupgron, on the 15th June, 1879. Kashor-Sarkision, of the village of Yonjaloo, was killed in the mountain of Ghidjé Dagh, Alashgert, by Circassians of Aintab and Poonooch, on the 11th May, 1880; those who killed him were imprisoned at Bitlis, and were afterwards freed by the order of Ali Pasha.

Manvoy Hosepion died, being shot through the breast. Mooradion, of Hedgon, entering the house of Ashodoor, wounded him in three places and carried off his goods, on the 10th May, 1880.

Five persons, natives of Toprak Kaleh, entering the house of old Virday Aspodoorion on the 9th May, 1880, at night, robbed him and violated his wife and daughter. Of these five, two were Hamid and Hussein, the sons of Mahmood. On the 15th November, 1881, the girl Verono Khlkhad, and her brother, were going to the salt works; the boy was wounded in three places, and the sister was violated by Kurds, Zeluli refugees, whose names are unknown.

(Signed) JOHN, *Archdeacon.*

No. 60.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 686.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Major Trotter, containing a Report on the state of education in Erzeroum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 16.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, July 27, 1881.

IN the belief that it will prove of interest, I beg to forward you herewith a Report on the state of education in Erzeroum at the present time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

Report by Captain Everett on the state of Education in Erzeroum.

THE population of Erzeroum is composed of Turks, Persians, Armenians, and Greeks. The Turks and Persians are without exception Mahommedans; the greater portion of the Armenians are Gregorians, or, as they prefer to call themselves, "Lousia Vortchagan," or "The Illuminated"; the rest, a small proportion, being either Catholics or Protestants. The Greeks, of course, follow the Orthodox faith.

The following Table gives, as nearly as they can be obtained, the proportions of the different units:—

		Families.
Turks		5,300*
Persians		55
Armenian Gregorians		1,512
„ Catholics		156
„ Protestants		32
Greeks		65
	Total	7,340

* Taken from official statistics published before the last war.

Beside these, there are a few families of Lazis and Russian Jews.

From statistics gathered by me during the late famine it appears that on the average a family in the city may be supposed to consist of five souls, whence the population might be taken at about 36,700; but Mgr. Ormanian, the Armenian Gregorian Bishop, multiplies the families of his nation by seven, and thus brings up the total number of Armenians of all religions to 11,900. According to this reckoning the population might be taken at 40,100.

The city is divided into thirty-six mahalés, quarters, or parishes, of which twenty-four are Moslem, or nearly so, four are Christian, or nearly so, and eight are mixed. Every quarter, however, whether Christian or Moslem, has its mosque, which is at the same time the school of the quarter. In some quarters there is more than one school, and in two or three there are, in addition, special schools for girls. The master is in all cases the Mollah or parish Priest.

So far as I can ascertain, the number of these schools and the number of the pupils they contain are as follows:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Boys' schools	61	1,299
Girls' schools	6	180
Total	67	1,479

They are all of a primary character, the education being limited to the rudiments of Turkish and to the learning by heart of selected passages from the Koran. Children are taken at the age of 4½, and may remain till they are grown up if they choose, but at the age of 10 they are eligible to enter the high school, provided they can pass the required examination. To these primary schools the parents pay for their children's education at the rate of from 1 piastre to 3 piastres a-week, according to the wealth of the parents.

The High School.—There is only one high school for the whole Moslem community of Erzeroum. This was established twelve years ago by Mustafa Pasha, the present Governor, and is supported by the Government. The number of scholars varies, but at present there are 120, of ages from 10 to 15 nominally. I noticed, however, boys both younger and older, and I suspect that permission, without passing the prescribed examination, is sometimes permitted. The subjects taught are Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Ottoman history, geography, arithmetic, and drawing. There are four masters, two of whom are Mollahs, the senior being from Constantinople. I examined several of the boys in reading, and saw several specimens of their writing and drawing. A few boys of 10 years old read fairly well, and the writing was good throughout; but the want of text-books and of good maps was very apparent, no maps, either of the world or of America, existing in the school. I have reason to believe that the arithmetic is weak, and history and geography almost mythical. The few text-books I could get hold of were of a religious character, and the copies for the writing were either sentences from the Koran or exhortations to study its precepts, written by the masters on slips of paper, and, I fear, in many instances shown to me as the work of the pupils.

Many of the boys were not wanting in intelligence, and, with greater opportunities, would probably develop into useful members of the community. The building would accommodate at least 300 scholars, but half of it has fallen altogether out of repair from disuse.

The Military School.—Those boys who elect to follow the profession of arms are, at the age of 15, removed to the military school, where they remain as boarders for three years, and are then passed on to Constantinople. This school, like the high school, is supported by the Government, and pupils are received in it from the whole vilayet. The building is spacious, and with sufficient accommodation for at least 200 boarders. It was used during the war as a hospital. Its present occupants are thirty-five cadets, of no great intelligence and sadly wanting in text-books. Turkish writing, not having been thoroughly mastered in the lower schools, still appears as a subject, the others being French, mathematics (including trigonometry and mechanics), drawing and painting, history, and geography. Being a military school, I naturally expected to find some attempts made to instil into the pupils the rudiments of some military study. But I found nothing of the kind. The school appears to be military in its name, in having a sentry on the gate, in the employment of a bugle instead of a bell, in having military professors (of which there are five), and in dressing the cadets in uniform; but there its military character ceases. The most successful study is flower painting from copies, at

which one or two of the pupils had obtained considerable proficiency at the expenditure of much valuable time. Some wonderful specimens of caligraphy were also shown me as a proof of the high standard of education. One or two of the pupils could read and write French a little, but none of them could speak it, which, perhaps, is not to be wondered at, seeing that the professor himself, a young man of about 20, is incapable of carrying on a conversation in that language. I have remarked on the dearth of text-books; there did not appear to be half-a-dozen among the whole of the pupils, and as to maps, there was not one.

Generally speaking, both here and in the high school, there seemed to be neither life nor energy. Lassitude and nonchalance pervaded both masters and pupils, while the former seemed perfectly satisfied both with their own efforts and the progress of their scholars.

New Free School.—In addition to these public schools, there has been opened lately in Erzeroum, by an intelligent and liberal-minded Turkish gentleman, Raul Effendi, a free school for boys of all classes, containing at present some sixty-five pupils. The system of teaching, made to approximate more closely to our own, is proving most successful, while the discipline kept up is excellent. A larger building being in course of construction, and subscriptions having been already collected for two years to come, there is every hope of a speedy development among the Mussulman community of a better system of education. Such a reform has not been introduced without some opposition, the principal opposer being the Vali, who placed some obstacles in the way of the school being opened; and a very excellent suggestion made by the founder, viz., that the Mollahs of the surrounding villages should be persuaded to attend, for the purpose of learning and introducing into their villages the system of education here employed, has been declared by him as not permissible.

The above statistics show that, out of a probable number of 11,000 Mussulman boys and girls, only 1,699 are at present receiving any education.

The Armenians.—On turning to the Armenians a very different picture presents itself. For some time past the question of education, both in the town and in the provinces, has received considerable attention, and lately, especially among the Gregorians, it has been taken up with great energy and determination.

Armenian Gregorians.—The Armenian Gregorians in Erzeroum possess six schools:—

1. A central high school for boys of the higher classes.
2. A central primary school for boys of the lower classes.
3. A central school for girls.
4. A private school for sons of merchants and notables.
5. A primary school for boys and girls.
6. A primary school for boys.

The studies extend over a period of ten years, and are divided into three courses. The first, or elementary course, lasts three years, the subjects being confined to reading and writing in the mother tongue, arithmetic as far as and including decimal fractions, the outlines of Armenian history, geography of Turkey, Scripture history, the catechism, and singing—the instruction in this last consisting principally in teaching the children to sing by heart a number of patriotic songs.

The second course, of four years' duration, is more advanced in character. The subjects are ancient and modern Armenian, Turkish, French, arithmetic (including the use of logarithms), the elements of geometry, universal history, physical and political geography, the elements of natural history, outlines of physics, drawing, and singing.

In the third or superior course, which extends over a further period of three years, the literature of the three languages above mentioned is studied, a higher course of geometry and physics is introduced, while chemistry, logic, rational and moral philosophy, double bookkeeping, and music are added to the subjects above mentioned for those pupils who may be inclined to study them.

The attendance in this course is limited to those few who, having passed through the first two courses, are not yet apprenticed to some trade, or are intended to occupy a higher position in life.

In the girls' school a course is followed somewhat resembling the two first already described for boys, with the difference that the Turkish language is altogether omitted, and needlework, including the use of the sewing-machine, is added to the other studies.

The number of boys and girls attending the schools is shown in the following Table:—

	Boys.				Girls.			Totals.
	3rd Course.	2nd Course.	1st Course.	Infants.	2nd Course.	1st Course.	Infants.	
1. Central school for boys of the superior classes ..	8	60	120	..	..	..	..	188
2. Central school for boys of the inferior classes ..	..	..	300	40	..	..	..	340
3. Central girls' school ..	..	..	..	..	45	355	35	435
4. Private school	..	50	52	..	..	..	..	102
5. Primary school for boys and girls	..	..	125	..	..	115	..	240
6. Primary school for boys ..	..	..	135	..	..	..	..	135
Totals	8	110	732	40	45	470	35	1,440

In all these schools, with the exception of No. 4, the education has been until lately free, and the expenses connected therewith defrayed by means of the revenues obtained from Church property, and by annual and voluntary subscriptions from the richer families of the community.

A few months ago only has the system of payment for tuition been inaugurated, those families who are in easier circumstances paying a sum proportional to the number of children they send to school, while those of the poor who can, pay a small and fixed sum of a few piastres. But this system has to be proceeded with very cautiously, for the people, not yet understanding that it is their duty to promote the education of their children, naturally resent an innovation which, in appearance, robs them of a right always enjoyed hitherto.

The total revenues of the Church bring in annually £ T. 2,000, and it is hoped that £ T. 600 may be obtained from the newly inaugurated payments for tuition, making a total of £ T. 2,600, without counting voluntary subscriptions; but as the whole of the Church expenses have to come out of this sum, only a small proportion of it is available for purposes of education. On the other hand, the annual cost of instruction amounts to £ T. 1,612.

The private school (No. 4), started in 1873, is entirely self-supporting, and having nearly doubled its income since its commencement, might be considered both popular and flourishing. I understand, nevertheless, that, from motives of economy, it is intended shortly to join it with and place it on the same footing as the national schools.

The subjects taught do not differ from those in the national schools, but the education is higher, and the masters are of a superior class.

The Table given above shows that 1,440 children, of whom 550 are girls, are at present receiving an education in the Armenian Gregorian schools. Assuming the number of children to be 3,000, of whom 1,000 are too young to be admitted into the schools, it would seem that about 70 per cent. of the total number of teachable children are being educated.

The energetic efforts which are being made by the Gregorian Armenians, who constitute the bulk of the nation, to improve themselves, are most laudable, and deserving of every encouragement. No less than £ T. 3,000 was subscribed by the people for the central girls' school, which was only opened last year—more money, probably, than was actually spent upon the building, which is, nevertheless, a spacious well-arranged school.

A great impulse has been given to the movement by Mgr. Ormanian, the present Armenian Gregorian Bishop of Erzeroum, who personally directs the teaching with ability and unflinching perseverance, and to whose kindness I am indebted for a great deal of the information which I am able to give you on the subject.

I was much struck with the intelligence of the boys. It surprised me greatly to see youths of 12 and 13, drawn haphazard from the ordinary artizan class, reading and writing well both French and Turkish in addition to their own language; and this is the more remarkable when it is remembered that both the Roman and Arabic characters have to be mastered in addition to their own, and that, in studying the latter character, which is read from right to left, they have to encounter the same difficulties as the European.

Mgr. Ormanian is very desirous of introducing English and gymnastics into the course, but until fresh funds can be got together it is impossible for him to attempt any enterprise that will increase the expenditure. As it is, there are not enough teachers for the number of pupils. One master to fifty scholars is the present proportion, and any one

knows who has had any experience in teaching that it is impossible for one man either to teach, or even to look after properly, so large a number. Still the existing state of things is very much better than two years ago, since when twelve masters and mistresses have been added to the establishment.

The Catholic Armenians.—The Catholic Armenians, consisting of 156 families, possess two schools, one for boys and one for girls. The schools are, and have been for some time past, partially self-supporting, and are under the supervision of Mgr. Melkisedikian, the Armenian Catholic Bishop.

In this community also rapid strides have been made in education. Ten years ago they numbered 152 families, and at that period there was no school for girls; the number of boys educated was but sixty-four, and the receipts from payment for tuition £ T. 20. Now there is a girls' school containing eighty-eight pupils, the number of the boys has increased to eighty-five, and the amount received from the parents for schooling is £ T. 110.

The boys' school is divided into two large divisions, lower and upper. In the lower school the education is confined to reading and writing in the mother tongue and arithmetic. In the upper school, French, Turkish, Armenian history, geography, and arithmetic are taught, in addition to higher studies of their own language. The teachers, well-educated men, are mostly priests.

The school for girls is conducted by the Armenian Catholic nuns, under the direction of the Mother-superioress. The subjects taught are Armenian, French, elementary arithmetic, music, and needlework, in which great proficiency is attained, especially in a species of embroidery much used in the national head-dress. In a country where the neglect of female education is so noticeable, it is remarkable to find that among the Armenian Catholics the number of girls who receive education exceeds that of the boys.

The Protestant Armenians.—The Protestants possess three schools, one for boys, one for girls, and one for infants of both sexes. The boys' school, which is by them divided into the departments of high and intermediate, is attended by about forty-two pupils, principally Armenians, but including one or two of other races. Of these, about 20 per cent. only are Protestants.

The subjects taught in addition to Armenian (in which language the instruction is given) are the Bible, arithmetic and book-keeping, algebra and geometry, Turkish, English, and French, geography and history, physiology, natural philosophy, elementary Greek, drawing, painting, and music, both vocal and instrumental.

Possessing the advantage of the supervision of the American missionaries, I had expected to find here a superiority over the other schools, both in the method of instruction and in the thoroughness of the education imparted; but I was very much disappointed. There seemed to be no system, no organization. There is not a single boy in the school who can translate correctly from his own language into English, and only four can speak the language at all. In the other subjects I could not find any special proficiency. The girls' school, under the immediate superintendence of a lady teacher, is altogether in a better state than that of the boys. It is attended by sixteen girls, of ages varying from 10 to 17, and the subjects taught, in addition to Armenian, are the Bible, English, geography, arithmetic, the principles of astronomy, music, and needlework. Two girls only can speak any English. The needlework compares most unfavourably with that of the Armenian Catholic school, as well as with that of the French nuns, alluded to further on.

The schools are supported by an annual gift of £ T. 50 from the American Society, and voluntary subscriptions are collected to the amount of £ T. 16 per annum, while a further sum of £ T. 8 is made up from the payment received from parents for tuition, which is collected at the rate of from 2 to 12 piastres per head per week.

Notwithstanding the defects which I have noticed, the school has more than doubled its numbers in the last ten years. A new school-house is also in course of construction, and I have been informed that the schools are to be thoroughly reorganized. It is certainly most necessary that new energy should be infused into the administration, if the Protestants wish to keep pace with the other Armenian communities.

The French School.—A girls' school with little pretension and with a synopsis comprising French, needlework, arithmetic, and music, in addition to Armenian, is admirably conducted by the French nuns, and is undoubtedly one of the best, if not the best, girls' school in Erzeroum. The number of pupils varies from about 120 in the summer to 200 in the winter, and are of all creeds and races. They appear to me to get through a great deal of good practical work. As in the girls' school of the Armenian Catholics, great attention is given to needlework in all its branches.

The use of the needle is practically unknown in Erzeroum. Turkish women never work, everything they require being handed over to the Christians, but among these even the knowledge is confined to those who have been former pupils in the two Catholic schools. As ten years ago the Catholic Armenian school was not in existence, it may easily be understood how very few women in Erzeroum have any knowledge at all of this important item of female education.

The tuition is free to the children of the poor, who receive a plain and practical education, while the rich can get their daughters fairly educated for the modest sum of 2*l.* a-year.

The French nuns were the pioneers of education in Erzeroum, and their school existed before any other.

The Greek Schools.—The Greeks of Erzeroum came originally from the village and neighbourhood of Gumush Khaneh, in the Vilayet of Trebizond, where, according to their own traditions, the writing on their tombs, and the inscriptions in the vicinity, they have existed since the time of Alexander. Whether or no this be true, there can be no doubt of their long residence in the country.

The Greeks of Erzeroum speak among themselves a *patois* which to the modern Greek is so unintelligible that he hardly recognizes the speaker as a compatriot. An examination of this *patois* proves, however, that it is nothing more nor less than ancient Greek, containing not a word either of Turkish or of Armenian, or indeed of any language foreign to it, except one or two expressions borrowed probably from the Romans.

The Greeks of Gumush Khaneh were principally miners, but of late years seem to have turned their attention to the cultivation of fruit, and especially of the apple-tree—apples of Gumush Khaneh being renowned throughout the country.

The Greeks of Erzeroum are, however, nearly all in trade, and are as successful as their brethren in other parts of the world.

Continued ill-treatment at the hands of the Turks, and liberal offers of land and money from Russia are fast clearing out the Greeks from the country. Last year large numbers emigrated to Russia, and this spring many others have followed in their wake.

The Greeks possess one national school for boys and girls, divided into a lower and an upper division. The number of scholars is at present eighty, of whom twenty-five are girls, not taught separately but mixed up in the classes with the boys. The subjects taught in the lower school are modern Greek, arithmetic, geography, and Greek history. In the upper school ancient Greek and Turkish are added to higher studies in the former subjects. The children read more intelligently in this school than in any other I visited.

The school is sustained by legacies, by an annual donation from the Grand Duke Michael, and by voluntary subscriptions collected from the Greek inhabitants of the city. The parents of the scholars pay an entrance fee of 1 silver medjidié (about 3*s.* 4*d.*), after which there is no further charge.

Notwithstanding that education in Erzeroum is still in its infancy, enormous strides have been made of late years. Fifteen years ago there were no Turkish schools except the ordinary Mollahs' classes, and the Armenian schools for girls, both Gregorian and Catholic, were not in existence. Ten years ago the Protestant Armenians numbered but 26 scholars against the 58 of to-day, and the Armenian Catholics, though at that time a larger community, could only show 64 boys on the roll, while they now muster 85. Among both Turks and Christians, therefore, there is progress.

Of the Christian communities, the Armenian Gregorians, if not at this moment first in the race, will very soon distance the rest, in spite of their large numbers, for whom instructors enough cannot be found in the country, nor, from want of funds, can at present be imported.

In the districts as well as in Erzeroum the most praiseworthy attempts are being made by the Armenians to drag their nation from the ignorance in which they have hitherto lived. Several new schools have been opened during the past year, while those previously existing have been made to feel the influence of the new movement. When in Ahlshgert this spring I revisited the Armenian Gregorian school at Topzak Kaleh, and I found a new school-house built, increased numbers, and an energetic administration.

It will be not less interesting to watch the progress made by the newly-opened Turkish schools of Rami Effendi. Such a radical change in the system of Turkish education as that introduced in this school may be productive of important results. Thus, although there is no perceptible reformation in the administration, a still greater one is being made by the people themselves, and a generation is undoubtedly rising which will be

better qualified to understand the nature of reform, and better able to appreciate its benefits.

Erzeroum, July 27, 1881. (Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 61.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 22.*)

(No. 688.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 15*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to Major Trotter by Captain Clayton, giving an account of his journey from Van to Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Bitlis, July 25*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with permission granted by the Ambassador, I started from Van on the 13th instant, and proceeding by the south shore of the Lake of Van, reached Akhlat on the 18th. The country I passed through *en route* was quiet, though one or two cases had occurred of robbery of crops by the Kurds.

At Akhlat I made an investigation into the amount of damage done by the earthquake of the 30th May. I personally inspected between 140 and 150 houses that had been more or less injured, and I believe there were some 15 or 20 that I did not see. The greater part of these houses were only partially damaged, some very slightly, but some were quite ruined. The authorities provided me with a list of twenty-five families who were utterly unable to do anything themselves towards restoring their dwellings, with an estimate of the amount of money required to effect that object, the total amount being 5,920 piastres. From Lady Strangford's fund I gave £ T. 60 for these families, and £ T. 45 in aid of other sufferers who might be in distress, though not absolutely destitute, making £ T. 105 in all.

On the 20th July I left Akhlat, and passing through Téourt, the Armenian village which was totally destroyed by the earthquake, I reached Bitlis on the 22nd. At Téourt I found about half the houses in a fair way towards restoration, the remainder being still in ruins. I was unable to find out on the spot the persons most in need of help, but was told I could obtain all information at Bitlis. Since my arrival here I have made inquiries and have found that, according to the official investigation, there are 171 houses that require rebuilding, at a total estimated cost of 96,064 piastres. According to the Armenian Committee formed for assisting the people of Téourt, 108 of these houses, requiring 58,444 piastres to rebuild them, belong to very poor families. The Committee has distributed clothing and necessaries to the most needy, and has now about £ T. 250 in hand for rebuilding. I have contributed £ T. 120 from Lady Strangford's fund, and, in all probability, Mr. Knapp, the American missionary, will be able to contribute from funds still remaining in his hands from the Constantinople lottery. The Government, soon after the disaster, gave a loan of 125 chaps of wheat (250 Constantinople kilés), and on my former visit I left £ T. 45, which was used to purchase 72 chaps of wheat (144 Constantinople kilés).

The day before yesterday a telegram reached the Vali of Bitlis to the effect that a quarrel had arisen among the Hassananli Kurds near Melasgird about a girl, and that a collision had occurred between two parties, in which a number of lives were lost, variously estimated at from seven to fifteen; and that the two parties, each some 1,000 strong, were drawn up in hostile attitude opposite one another. In consequence of this report, his Excellency started yesterday for Melasgird.

The Local Governments appear to have received stringent orders from Constantinople to collect all possible revenue. In the Kaimakamlik of Gawash, on the south shore of the Lake of Van, I found that officials were engaged in making fresh measurement and valuation of lands, houses, &c., for the purpose of assessing anew the property tax.

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Formerly a tax called "kharaeh" was paid by the villagers, a certain sum being assessed on each village determined by old custom. Some fifteen years ago a new system was ordered to be introduced by which definite taxes were imposed on various kinds of property, but up to this time the order has never been thoroughly carried out. Now, however, the attempt is being made to carry it out, but I understand that in some instances the Kurds have resisted the measurement and valuation of their property.

At Gâllu I was informed that the Gawash Kaïmakam had demanded the production of the receipts for the taxes of past years. As such a demand had never before been made, the villagers had not kept the papers, and thereupon the Kaïmakam required fresh payment to a considerable amount, 6,000 piastres being demanded from one village alone containing less than fifty houses, as arrears since the time of the war.

Since my arrival at Bitlis I have been informed that very harsh measures are being adopted against the Christians with respect to the "bedel-i-askerié." It appears that this tax has not been regularly collected according to any actual enumeration of the male Christian population, but some time ago a certain sum was laid on the different villages and localities according to the estimate then made of the number of males. Since that time the Christian population has fluctuated, and varying proportions of the sums assessed have been from year to year left uncollected, but now, stringent orders having been received from Constantinople, the arrears of all sums uncollected for the last ten years are demanded, and no regard is paid to the representations of the Christians that large numbers of persons have permanently left the country since the original assessment was made. From the Armenians in the city of Bitlis alone, numbering about 10,000 males and females, a sum of between 90,000 and 100,000 piastres is demanded as arrears. On the Armenians objecting to pay this, thirty merchants were twice imprisoned for seven or eight days each time, but the money has not yet been paid. In the villages, however, the collectors, I am informed, have instructions to sell the cattle, implements, household utensils, and even the houses of the peasantry, to obtain the money demanded, and I have heard that they have recommended the people to emigrate if they were dissatisfied. I to-day asked the Defterdar, who is acting for the Vali during his absence, as to the principle on which this demand was being made, and his answer was that when a person left a place a "mazbata" should be sent from the place to which he had removed, and that then the tax for him would not be demanded from his original place of residence, but that it would be demanded in the default of such "mazbata." It is obvious that such a rule could not be observed in the case of persons who had emigrated to a foreign country, nor does it touch the case where a general assessment has been made which has remained unchanged for many years, and I cannot but regard it as a sort of blind intended to obscure the real state of the case.

I intend to leave Bitlis to-morrow for Sert, and from thence to proceed by Sassoun to Mush, which I expect to reach in eight or nine days. From Mush my intention is to return to Van viâ Boulanyk, Melasgird, Arjesh, and the north of the Lake of Van.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 62.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 689. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 15, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose you a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. W. Wilson, reporting on the state of the Sivas Vilayet under the present Vali. It is a most melancholy record of incapacity, misgovernment, and injustice. Unfortunately the Vali, Hakki Pasha, is a friend of the Prime Minister, which will add to the difficulty of obtaining his removal; but I propose, as I have already done in the case of the officials at Erzeroum and elsewhere, whose malpractices have been denounced by Major Trotter, to try and induce the Porte to replace this man by a more respectable officer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 23. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Sivas, July 23, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to draw your Lordship's attention to the great change for the worse which has taken place in the state of the Sivas Vilayet during the term of office of the present Vali, Ismail Hakki Pasha.

When I left Sivas in February 1880 the country was perfectly safe and quiet; the most notorious brigands were either in prison or had fled the country, and murders and robberies had virtually ceased. A definite scheme for the relief and settlement of the refugees had been drawn up; arrangements had been made for completing the road to Samsoon; subscriptions were being raised for the improvement of the Moslem schools; and various other projects for the general good of the people were taking shape under the hands of Abédine Pasha, who was then Vali.

Hakki Pasha took over the government of Sivas early in April 1880, and since that time there has been a constant downward tendency, until now Sivas is the worst-governed vilayet in Anatolia; this is also the opinion of the American missionaries, who have good opportunities of forming a correct judgment. This state of affairs is almost entirely due to the personal influence of the Vali.

Hakki Pasha was formerly Mutessarif of Samsoon, and whilst there Mr. Consul Biliotti wrote of him that "his corrupt practices had so far attracted the attention of the Porte that the latter gave orders to Yussuf Pasha, ex-Governor-General of Trebizond, and subsequently to Said Pasha, to make an inquiry into his conduct. But there were in the hands of the Porte so evident proofs of the culpability of the functionary in question, that both Valis declined to interfere, as the object of the Government only appeared to be to shift on them the responsibility of divulging the fraud."

The disgraceful treatment of the refugees who were landed at Samsoon in 1878 and 1879 was, I believe, brought at the time to the notice of Her Majesty's Embassy, and my own attention was drawn in the latter year to the lawlessness of the district between Samsoon and Amasia. Mr. Leonard, an American missionary, was robbed and ill-treated on the road to Samsoon, yet no notice was taken of the outrage; the well-known author of an atrocious double murder was allowed to walk openly in the streets of Samsoon; and I was told at the time by Circassians that release from Samsoon prison was only a matter of payment.

On assuming the government of Sivas Hakki Pasha lost no time in filling the more important offices with friends and relations, who would be subservient to his wishes. The Mektubji (Secretary-General) an old Samsoon official, is married to the Vali's niece; the Major of Zaptiehs and the Chief Clerk of the Administrative Council are married to sisters of the Mektubji. The Public Prosecutor and the late Assistant Public Prosecutor were Samsoon officials, and so was the chief tax collector of Sivas. Two other Samsoon officials have been appointed to places of responsibility at Tokat.

The Inspector of Justice was, while at Konieh, notoriously corrupt and inattentive to his duties, and he has no better character here. The Vali and his friends are said, I believe with justice, to drink to excess, and the Defterdar (Paymaster-General), who is otherwise independent, is tied to them by his propensity to the same vice.

Complaints are constantly being made to me of acts of oppression and misgovernment, by Moslems and Christians alike, but all seem hopeless of relief, as it is well known that Hakki Pasha is a protégé of the present Prime Minister, Said Pasha.

I have refrained from taking any official action, as when, on one occasion, I brought a case of injustice to the notice of the Vali, in a friendly way, little attention was paid to my representations.

Of the murderers, robbers, and known brigands imprisoned by Abédine Pasha, one alone remains in confinement, and has not been released because the brother of one of the men he has murdered occupies an influential position at Constantinople. The escape of the twelve Kurdish Beys was reported at the time by Lieutenant Cheruside; it appears to have been almost openly effected, and the action of the Vali afterwards can only be construed in one sense.

The celebrated Mihr Ali, whose ill-treatment of Christians is described in my despatch No. 41 of the 13th November, 1879, has been allowed to return, and though he and his people are quiet at present, they must always constitute an element of danger in the country.

The release of so many criminals without due punishment could not but have the effect of encouraging crime, and in a letter dated [illegible] 1880, forwarded with my despatch No. 71 of the 22nd December last, the Armenian Bishop reported the recent occurrence of 7 murders, 52 cases of inflicting wounds, and 168 robberies. Since that date I have heard of no murders, but assaults and robberies have been, and still are, frequent, and two of the sufferers have been American missionaries. Few of the authors of these crimes have been secured, and even the murder of the Armenian which led to the Armenian riot remains unpunished. People are now run into prison on slight provocation, and do not get out until they have paid well for their liberty. Some of the prisoners have been confined for weeks without undergoing examination, whilst numbers have been imprisoned for debts to the Government, or for not paying their taxes. A bad case, in which a Christian woman, accused of robbery, was confined in the house of a Turkish Imam, and kept for two months in irons, has recently come to my knowledge. During this time the woman is said to have been frequently violated by the Imam. I have taken steps to have her handed over to the members of her own community.

The treatment of the two Russian subjects now in prison I have noticed in my despatch No. 22 of the 20th instant.

One of the most fertile sources of the general disorder is the non-payment of salaries. The Vali and his friends get paid; the other officials have to wait. This had a disastrous effect on the zaptieh force; most of the best men resigned, and their places were filled up by men who only entered the force to gain an opportunity for plundering the people.

The zaptiehs wished to appeal to me and ask my assistance, but were stopped by the Binbashi (Major).

The stoppage of salaries has also had an injurious effect on the Law Courts, and two of the Judges complained to me much of the unfortunate position in which they were placed; the salary of one of the Judges was almost openly withheld on account of the independence he had shown.

I drew the attention of the Vali to the evils arising from the non-payment of salaries, and had the satisfaction of hearing afterwards that some small advances had been made; but the officials are still much in arrear. The scenes at the konak recently have been very disgraceful; the place has been filled with poor women and men begging that their small pittances might be paid; and only a few days ago the police were called in to drive the half-starving petitioners out of the Defterdar's room.

Your Lordship is already aware of the manner in which the examination and trial of the Armenians accused of taking part in the riot in October last was conducted from Mr. Richards' Reports and my despatch No. 71 of the 22nd December last. Some further details which have come to my knowledge will form the subject of a separate despatch.

The illegal manner in which Hakki Pasha attempted to influence the elections to the various Councils last year was brought to Mr. Goschen's notice, and, on his representations to the Porte, I believe, the action of the Vali was checked. I was somewhat surprised, on my arrival at Sivas, to hear that new elections had been held in May last. On this occasion the Vali exerted his influence to the utmost in the Committee of selection, and refused to allow the names of many respected members of the several communities to be entered on the electoral lists.

The result has been that every one who showed the least independence during the Armenian trial has been removed from the Courts, and the vacancies have been filled by more compliant men. The members of the Court of Appeal were elected before the appeal of the Armenians from the Court of First Instance was heard. One of the new members is a man who was dismissed from his post as Mufti by a special Vizirial letter, which directed that he should never be employed again in the Government service. Three others are members of the "ring" which, under the leadership of Mehemet Ali, rules Sivas, and is the chief cause of the disorganized state of the vilayet.

The same influence was exercised in the sandjaks and cazas; from all quarters complaints come that the good men have been turned out and corrupt men elected. At Amasia, one of the most respected men of the town, Dr. Jeremy Effendi, had his election annulled because he was personally obnoxious to the Vali.

It would hardly be possible to give an adequate idea of the manner in which the refugee question has been treated during the last eighteen months by the Refugee Commission, under the presidency of Mehemet Ali. A large majority of the refugees have not been settled at all, and where settlement has been effected, it has been too often carried out unjustly, and so as to inflict unnecessary hardship on the refugees and peasantry. Village lands have been seized and appropriated, whilst the immense tracts of waste land held by Mehemet Ali and other notables have been left untouched. Wealthy refugees have had to

bribe freely to obtain lands, and from the poor ones has been taken the little they had before lands were allotted to them. The Secretary of the Refugee Commission, who was a poor man, is now comparatively wealthy. The general dissatisfaction was such that two movements set in—one on the part of the refugees to return to the country they had left, the other on the part of the Christian peasantry to emigrate to Russian territory. Both movements were stopped by peremptory orders from Constantinople.

I have a petition from sixty-three Greek families, begging that I would use my influence to obtain permission for them to emigrate; and 250 Armenian families from a district near Sivas are ready to move when permitted.

I was told, on good authority, that the Russian Government had obtained permission for the emigration of the Armenians, but that the Vali refused to carry out the order.

I may add that only last week a demonstration was made in front of the konak by some of the refugees, who were begging for food, and that they did not disperse until the Military Commandant persuaded them to do so.

The state of affairs in the Vilayet of Sivas is disgraceful to the Government of Hakki Pasha, and I hope that your Lordship may be able to induce the Porte to replace him by a more capable Vali. The Public Prosecutor is almost equally to be blamed, and should, if possible, be removed at the same time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 63.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 693.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 16, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that yesterday I brought to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 407 relative to the Persian expedition against the Shekak tribe, and the flight of Ali Khan to Turkish territory.

Assim Pasha informed me that the Turkish Government had already given orders to prevent the entry into Ottoman territory of any of the Persian insurgents.

He did not seem to know the name of Ali Khan, but he took a note of my information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 64.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 592.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 22, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 656 of the 5th instant, transmitting a Report from Sir C. Wilson of his journey from Smyrna to Sivas, and I have to request your Excellency to convey my thanks to Sir C. Wilson for this interesting paper.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 65.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 599. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 25, 1881.*

I HAVE read Sir C. Wilson's Report of the deplorable condition into which the Vilayet of Sivas has relapsed since the appointment of the present Vali, Hakki Pasha, and I approve your Excellency's intention, as stated in your covering despatch No 689, Confidential, of the 15th instant, to endeavour to obtain the removal of that functionary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 66.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 698.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 16, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 495 of the 21st June, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Stewart in reply to the complaints made by the Sublime Porte with regard to his recent journey among the Arabs of Hamah. I have instructed Sir A. Sandison to inform Assim Pasha of the substance of these explanations, and to state that I am certain his Excellency will consider them perfectly satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Captain Stewart to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Latakia, August 3, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch dated the 6th July with inclosure.

I cannot admit that my recent journey among the Arabs of Hama would be at all likely to cause serious local troubles, but rather quite the reverse, as I always advised the Sheikhs and tribes to remain quiet and peaceable. The Sheikhs I visited were all at peace with the Government, and I made a point of avoiding some such as the Shamman under Sheikh Asi, son of Ferhan Pasha, who had a very bad reputation and is robbing and plundering the whole country side.

As for making presents of Khilats, it is the custom of the desert, and not to give them would be considered very mean. That presents are always expected is shown by my being asked in one or two places what I was going to give.

So much is the giving of presents, &c., the regular custom, that the Turkish officials, themselves, have to comply with it.

On my return to Aleppo I made a verbal report of my journey and of what had come under my observation to his Excellency Jemil Pasha, the Vali. He appeared entirely to concur with what I said.

Altogether I would say that the Turkish Government, instead of anticipating harm from my journey, should rather view it with satisfaction and approval.

I would wish to point out to the Government that it is not by a few casual and rapidly passing travellers that disturbances are at all likely to be caused. The principal agents in this respect are the Turkish Government and the Turkish officials. As long as the present system of jobbery and bribery obtains, as long as justice remains but a by-word in the country, and that corrupt and ignorant officers are rewarded instead of punished, so long will discontent and disloyalty flourish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. STEWART.

No. 67.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 702. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 18, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to send you a confidential Report of a conversation between the Agent of Mr. Macdonald, who, as perhaps your Lordship is aware, is the promoter of a railway from Tripoli to Aleppo, and Namyk Pasha, President of the Committee of Public Works.

It would appear from what fell from Namyk Pasha that the Topkané Commission of Public Works have been considering a proposition for the construction of a railway from Constantinople to Bagdad, viâ Angora, Diarbekir, and Mosul, submitted to them by Messrs. Pressler and Strousberg, and that the direction of the line has been approved of; but that reports unfavourable to Dr. Strousberg and Mr. Pressler having reached the Porte, inquiries have been set on foot in their regard. A project for associating a German

colonization scheme with the concession of this railway, as well as the proposal for a monopoly in the construction of the line, have been disapproved by the Porte in spite of the Ottoman Government being aware of the interest taken in the former by Prince Bismarck.

Mr. Macdonald further states that he himself has offered to take up the concession, but he suggests a line viâ Konia and Adana to Aleppo as preferable to one through Angora, Kaisarieh, and Diarbekir.

I have carefully perused Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 121 of the 17th February, recording the warnings he addressed to the Sultan in regard to Dr. Strousberg, as well as his Excellency's exposition of the general policy of Her Majesty's Government with reference to such concessions, which I observe has been approved of by your Lordship; and I propose to conform to the line of conduct thus indicated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Extract from Report of Interview with his Excellency Namyk Pasha, President of the Commission of Public Works (Topkané), referred to in my letter of the 13th ultimo.

SON Excellence Namyk Pacha m'a dit que cette Compagnie (Allemande, de Pressler et Strousberg) a acceptée la trace que la Commission a proposée. La ligne commencera à Ismid et passera par Angora, Ceasarea, Goran, Diarbekir, Mardin, Mosoul, Eevil (Arbil), Kerkook, Kefri, Bagdad, Hillah, Karbela; de ce dernier point il côtoyera le "Tigre" jusqu'à Bassorah avec un embranchement pour les Indes.

La Commission a fait un rapport favorable pour cette affaire, avec réserve que le Gouvernement devra prendre des informations précises sur l'honorabilité des concessionnaires, car Namyk a entendu que ces gens sont malhonnêtes avec leurs affaires. Il connait aussi les conditions de la Compagnie demandant de former une colonisation Allemande, ainsi que le monopole de construction. Ces deux points son désapprouvés par Namyk Pacha, et il m'a dit que pour le moment ils sont mis de côté. Il pense que le Gouvernement ne donnera cette concession à ces gens; alors, suivant vos instructions, j'ai offert la construction par notre Compagnie. En lui demandant de nous communiquer la copie des conditions que le Gouvernement ou la Commission voudra céder cette entreprise, alors il me répondit qu'il sera facile de nous transmettre le contre-projet.

Il dit aussi que la Commission a déjà envoyé beaucoup de Mazbatas au Conseil des Ministres, mais ceux-ci n'ont encore fait aucune étude sur tous les projets qui ont été soumis à la dite Commission.

Je lui ai exprimé aussi que ce projet est appuyé par le Gouvernement même, car Bismarck cherche un moyen d'empêcher l'émigration de ses peuples en Amérique, et ainsi il fait son possible pour obtenir le succès de cette affaire, et il me dit qu'on connaissait cela, mais que pour le moment n'est pas question, car cette proposition ou condition a été repoussée.

M. Zelinka further informed me that his Excellency Namyk Pasha, who had lived in Mesopotamia eleven years, had himself traced this line from Constantinople to Baghdad, &c., and that it was more desirable than the one suggested by his Excellency Hassan Fehmi Effendi by Aleppo,—for the latter would require an army to defend it from the Bedouin and other wild tribes.

Remarks.

So far as my information goes I regard the line from Constantinople to Baghdad as traced by his Excellency Namyk Pasha as presenting many difficulties, especially between Censuren and Diarbekir. It would be costly in construction, and command for some years a very limited local traffic.

The line proposed by his Excellency Hassan Fehmi Effendi is on every account more favourable. It is laid down on the map published by the Commission of Public Works, and passes through Konia, Eregli, Ulukisla, and Adana to Aleppo, &c.

Should the Government grant us the concession asked for, from Moudania to Konia, it is my intention to try and extend it in this direction.

Pera, August 9, 1881.

A. McD.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE LONDON

No. 68.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 706.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 19, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch from Colonel Warlow, giving an account of his journey from Ismid to Kastamuni.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Kastamuni, August 5, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I left Ismid on the 10th, and reached Kastamuni on the 31st July, travelling by way of Geiweh, Torbalu, Boli, and Kangari.

2. As mentioned in my despatch, marginally noted,* I paid a flying visit to Ada Bazaar, where I found that there had been a slight improvement in the general condition of the district, and that the crops were unusually good, but had been considerably damaged by field-mice.

3. Torbalu, a cazn (division) of the Boli Sandjak (district), has a population of 60,000 souls, of whom about 4,000 are Armenians. In some parts the crops have been partially destroyed by locusts, in spite of the efforts of the people, by whom, according to the Kaimakam's statement, no less than 250 tons of locusts had been collected and burnt.

4. In the mountainous country to the west of Boli and south of Dusdschah (Abbas and Boli Dagh) robberies are constantly being committed by Circassians from the latter place: about a week before I passed through they had stopped and plundered all the people of a small village on their way back from market.

5. Boli, a town containing about 1,600 houses, is the seat of the Mutessarif (Lieutenant-Governor) of the sandjak of the same name, which has a population of 400,000 people, and is the largest and most fertile division of the Vilayet (province) of Kastamuni. The principal crops are wheat and barley; the only export mohair (liftik), the wool of the Angora goat.

6. The whole country round Boli is infested by robbers, and many crimes have lately been committed by a gang of eight, several of whom broke out of gaol some years ago. Quite lately this gang came by night to a house of ill-fame in the town of Boli, and, being accidentally surprised there by two zaptiehs, shot one of them dead and made off. The zaptieh force here, as elsewhere, is utterly inefficient, and when robbers are captured, it is always by the villagers, who have raised an irregular police for their own protection.

7. The neighbourhood of Dusdschah is, as I have before reported,† a regular Circassian Alsatia, the authorities being quite powerless, and finding it advisable to shut their eyes to all that is going on around them.

8. The crops in the Boli Sandjak are very good this year, and except in one or two places, have not been damaged by locusts.

9. Kerede, a town of 600 or 700 houses, is the seat of a Kaimakam, and the centre of the mohair trade, the leading English merchants at Constantinople having agents here. The average amount of wool exported yearly is 80,000 okes, or about 100 tons, value, at present rates, some 13,000*l.*; all this is now exported *viâ* Ismid, but a great saving would be effected in carriage if a cart-road were made over the mountains to Erigli (Heraklea), on the Black Sea, distant about 70 miles.

10. The tax on each goat having lately been increased to 61 piastres (1*s.* 1*d.*), and the amount obtainable for its fleece, at present rates, being only 20 piastres (3*s.* 4*d.*), it no longer pays to keep the animals, and large numbers of them are now being slaughtered. If no rise in price should take place it is probable that next year will show a great falling-off in production; meanwhile the poor villagers are very heavy losers, as they are compelled to sell for 20 to 30 piastres (3*s.* 4*d.* to 5*s.*) goats which a year ago would have fetched from £ T. 1 to £ T. 2 (18*s.* to 36*s.*).

* Inclosure in No. 46.

† Despatch No. 10 of July 30, 1880.

11. Kangari has a population of 10,000 Moslems and 500 to 600 Greeks and Armenians, and is the seat of the Mutessarif (Lieutenant-Governor); the sandjak of which it is the capital has a population of about 250,000. The country is mountainous, and the soil generally poor. In the southern districts the crops have been entirely eaten up by locusts, and it is expected that the harvest of the whole sandjak will not be more than half the average; the only export is mohair, of which the yearly out-turn is from 150,000 to 200,000 okes (about 200 to 250 tons). It is sent to Inboli, on the Black Sea, by pack animals, there being no cart-road. Here, as at Kerede, the goats are being killed off.

12. The great annual fair has been held unusually early this year, and was just over when I arrived; owing partly to its having been held during harvest time, but principally to the extreme poverty of the people, the fair has been an entire failure; for the last three or four years it has been steadily falling-off: I am told the number of merchants attending it was somewhat as follows:—Before 1878, 1,500; in 1879, 1,000; in 1880, 600; in 1881, 150 to 200.

Prices of live stock of all sorts were very low. Cows were selling at from £ T. 1 to £ T. 2 (19*s.* to 36*s.*), and oxen at £ T. 3 (54*s.*), while horses, which only last year would have fetched £ T. 15, were now to be had for £ T. 10.

13. The town is about the dirtiest I have yet seen, and the Municipality do nothing with their 100,000 piastres (950*l.*) except keeping a doctor, who has no hospital, and is not supplied with medicines. The Christians have no complaint to make except the stock one, viz., that although represented in the different Councils, they have really no voice in the management of affairs; seeing that they form only 5 per cent of the population, I do not see how they can reasonably expect to have much influence.

14. The people of this town, and of the sandjak in general, are very ignorant and rude, and bear by no means a good character. As Ramazan had just begun, I was unable to see much of the officials, and could not visit the Mutessarif, who had been taken ill just before my arrival; he is said to be a worn out old man, and most of his work is done by his son.

15. There is very little crime in the town, and in the surrounding country robberies are by no means so common as in the Boli Sandjak.

16. In the two sandjaks through which I have passed there are very few great farms, nearly all the land being in the hands of the peasant proprietors; the average extent of each holding being 40 dounums (8 acres), of which one-half is allowed to remain fallow. Agriculture is carried on in the most primitive manner, and the people are miserably poor.

17. While at Changora I visited the salt mines situated in the mountains, about 9 miles to the south of the town; they are very extensive and the supply of salt practically unlimited; the actual out-turn at present is only 2,600 tons, bringing in a revenue of 13,000*l.* or 14,000*l.*; anyone that likes may work in the mine and take off the salt on a payment of 30 parns per oke (1½*d.* for 2¾ lbs.); very few precautions are taken to prevent cheating, and I imagine that with better management a much larger revenue might be obtained.

There are, strictly speaking, no roads in the country through which I passed, and in wet weather even pack animals must find it very difficult to get along.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 69.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 707.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 19, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 617 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti reporting further cases of robbery and murder in the Trebizond Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure in No. 69.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 42.)

Trebizond, August 4, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the following cases of robbery and murder which took place in this vilayet, or came to my knowledge since my despatch No. 37 of the 16th ultimo.

In the night of the 23th ultimo, a gang of twelve or fifteen Mussulmans broke into the houses of Avédis and Hatchadoor Sarsonatian, Armenians, living at a little distance from the village of Skarfin, in the Caza of Yomurah, and who were supposed to possess money.

Avédis defended himself, but was shot through and through by no less than thirty-six bullets. Two of his children, a boy of 13, and a girl of 11, who were in the same room, were shot dead in their beds. His eldest boy, a lad of 16, managed to escape from the house. His wife, who was in another room, having pointed out the hiding-place of the money, was spared, together with her baby, but she did not recognize any of the brigands.

She states, however, to have heard her boy exclaim that his father's assassin was Kibar Aga, and his nephew Suleïman, who, together with five other Laz families, settled last year in the vicinity of Skarfin, whereupon he was murdered. The brigands carried off 25*l.* and a few effects, and proceeded to the house of Hatchadoor, who, luckily for him, was absent.

They searched the house and made off with 4*l.*, and a few effects to their convenience, after having wounded his son, a lad of 13, and his daughter-in-law, who is a widow.

The police force sent next day from the town (there are only three zaptiehs stationed at Yomurah), picked up in Avédis' house sixty-five empty cartridges of Snider, Martini, and Winchester rifles, also a few bullets of muzzle-loading guns, and discovered traces of blood, indicating that two of Avédis' assailants had been wounded by him.

Kibar Aga and his nephew Suleïman, who have been at once apprehended, nor any of the other Lazes living in the vicinity, are not wounded. If the two Lazes, who are in prison, are really culpable, they had native accomplices, but the energetic investigations of the police to discover a further clue have hitherto proved unsuccessful.

In the night of the 23rd ultimo the house of the custom-house officer at Platana was broken into; his savings, consisting of 100*l.*, robbed, and himself and two members of his family slightly wounded. The Colonel of Police of the vilayet happening to arrive at Platana in the meanwhile, succeeded to immediately apprehend the thieves, who are natives of that caza.

Towards the same time a Greek woman also at Platana was ravished by three Turks, while she was fetching water from a fountain outside the village. Two of them have been arrested.

A fortnight ago a man was found murdered not far from Gumushané, but the identity of the victim and the perpetrators of the outrage have not yet been discovered by the police.

I have received from Tripoli a letter, in which it is stated that, on the 20th ultimo, seventeen Lazes repaired at the Greek village of Guché Kilissé, and carried off three Greeks, one of whom was wounded in the struggle, and from each of whom they asked a ransom of 50*l.* It would seem that the Lazes in question were waylying two rich inhabitants of Tripoli, a Greek and Armenian, who were proceeding to their summer residence, and who escaped capture, having received information in due time. The Lazes then turned their expedition against the inhabitants of Guché Kilissé. This is the first attempt in this part of Anatolia to exact ransom, and can only be the consequence of the example set forth in the Turkish provinces in Europe. The Vali, who, on hearing of the occurrence, gave immediate orders to the Kaïmakam of Tripoli to act without loss of time and with energy, has just informed me that the brigands have been apprehended, and the prisoners rescued.

A letter, addressed to the Armenian Bishop from Ordoo, informs him that one of his co-religionists, Karagenzoglou Hadji Minas, of the village of Saïadja, lately died of the wounds inflicted on him by Lazes, who, about a month ago, plundered his house.

Further information which I have obtained with regard to the occurrence at Metropoli, caza of Ordoo (reference to despatch No. 37 of the 16th ultimo), enables me to state that the first report which was communicated to me was greatly exaggerated. No women nor girls were ravished, and the stolen property was recovered and returned by the police to its owners.

I have heard from a gentleman who has just returned from the western districts of this vilayet, that the inhabitants have asked for and obtained permission from the local authorities to form themselves a kind of rural police in order to protect themselves against the depredations of Lazes. About a fortnight ago a watch of this rural police met at night at half-an-hour distant from the town of Fatza five Lazes, who, being summoned to explain where they were proceeding, or to give up their arms, answered by shooting dead one, and wounding two, of the watchmen. Their companions returned the fire, and killed the five Lazes, whose corpses their countrymen said they could not identify, though they insisted on their being decently buried.

The public heard only a few days ago of a piracy which was perpetrated about a month ago, and in broad daylight, on the eastern coast of this vilayet. A Hassan Reïs, commanding a coasting craft of 40 tons, had just cast anchor in close proximity of Atina, his native place, when fifteen or twenty armed men boarded his boat, asking for his money. Having resisted, he was shot dead, together with two of his crew; the other two, and a passenger who was on board escaping death by hiding themselves. The money stolen consisted of 80*l.* or 100*l.* belonging to the master, and 50*l.* to the passenger in question. The piracy was perpetrated by the Tchordanogloos (a family of which I spoke in several Reports, especially in my despatch No. 52 of the 20th October last), who, it would seem, after the deed, took to the mountains above Rizeh.

It was rumoured since some time that the Tchordanogloos were leading a piratical life, and that they had boasted of their intention to continue to do so until they had put together 2,500*l.*, 500*l.* were, they said, to cover the sum which they had expended last year to recover their liberty, and the remainder was to meet the much larger expenditure of escaping from a second imprisonment, and all unforeseen contingencies.

Though it was given out now and then that boats were plundered, as no distinct cases were ever brought to notice it was generally considered that the rumours were groundless. Judging, however, by the little attention that has attracted the fore-mentioned case, which involves a triple murder, I am inclined to believe in the truth of the noises which have been afloat for some time, with regard to smaller acts of piracy on the part of the Tchordanogloos.

It must, however, by no means be supposed that the cases reported in the present despatch are the only ones which have lately taken place in this vilayet. As in many instances occurrences of this nature in the cazas are brought very late, if they are at all brought, to the knowledge of the authorities at Trebizond, Apik Effendi, the Public Prosecutor, has issued orders to his subordinates to send in weekly reports, but whether his instructions will be strictly complied with is doubtful.

I beg to call attention to the fact that breech-loaders play a very prominent part in all acts of brigandage, the perpetration of which becomes easier by the possession of superior arms. If to completely disarm the populations presents insuperable difficulties at present, nothing prevents the Government from recovering its stolen rifles and ammunition, which must represent rather an important sum, thousands of Martinis, &c., having passed in the hands of natives and Lazes during the last war. There is, therefore, in compelling the populations to give up Government property not only a means to reduce brigandage, but also a financial advantage for the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 70.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 708.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti on the subject of the emigration to Russia of Armenian families and their subsequent endeavours to return.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 6, 1881.

THE Armenian Bishop has informed me that, owing to Lazes having settled in their vicinity, 150 Armenian families, residing not far from Synope, emigrated to Russia two months since after having disposed for nothing of their landed and other property. They sold one of their churches to Greeks, and another to Mussulmans, the last of which was converted into a mosque.

As the Russian Government appear to be adverse to the settlement of Armenians in the Caucasus, they offered them so poor lands that forty of these families have returned to Synope, but as the orders issued by the Porte forbid the return of Christian emigrants to Turkey, the case has been submitted to the Armenian Patriarch, who is endeavouring to obtain permission from the Turkish Government. It is expected that if these forty families obtain admittance in Turkey, the remainder will soon follow them back to their native country.

I hear, on the other hand, that 150 families of Laz immigrants have returned from Ordoo to Batoum, and that 300 other families, who had settled at Hapsamanéh, in the same caza, are about to do the same. I understand that a Russian Agent is actively engaged in this movement. Few leave in steamers; most of them charter sailing-boats and depart in them in small batches. This circumstance allows the local authorities, though they cannot witness with satisfaction the departure of their co-religionists, to shut their eyes at this reflux of emigration.

I inclose a statement lately furnished to me by Tchoorooksooli Ali Pasha of the number of Laz immigrants who landed in this vilayet since the cession of Batoum to Russia, and of their places of settlement. They can be reckoned to amount to upwards of 37,000 souls.

The Armenians of Synope are not the only Christian emigrants who returned to Turkey. I have had occasion to report in previous despatches that other Armenians and Greeks from the sea-shore of this vilayet had so done after a short residence in Russia.

All these movements of emigration are ruinous for the natives. Those who depart for Russia, after selling their property at ridiculously low prices, expend the little money which they obtain in travelling, and return to their native country in a state of perfect destitution. On the other hand, the erection of dwellings, the sowing of fields (grain included), and in a great measure the maintenance of Lazes falls on the natives in whose vicinity they settled, without reckoning that the latter are subject to depredations and, not seldom, to murderous attacks on the part of the former, who, however, I must say, find in most cases native accomplices.

I understand that in retaliation the populations of the Western districts have taken to shoot down Lazes whom they meet in isolated spots. This may account, in part, for a number of Laz emigrants having made up their minds, however much they hate Russian rule, to go back to Batoum, which, after all, is their native land. The return to Russia of a number of these families may be considered as very advantageous to themselves, as well as to the natives of this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

STATEMENT of Laz Immigrants in the Vilayet of Trebizond since the Cession of Batoum to Russia.

Places of settlement—	No. of Families
Tchorchamba	700
Thermé	80
Samsoun	200
Uniah	1,250
Ordoo	1,800
Fatza	1,500
Kerassond	320
Tireboli	60
Geurélé	40
Tonia	50
Aktché-Abad	100
Yomurah	20
Surmenah	15
Off	18
Atina	40
Total	6,193

Reckoning at six persons in a family, total .. 37,158.

Trebizond, August 6, 1881. (Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 71.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 710.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 19, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Bennet on the condition of the Marash district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Vice-Consul Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Kaisarieh, August* 2, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with instructions from the Consul-General, I left Marash on the 22nd ultimo for this place. Prior to my departure I paid a short visit to Aleppo, and took an opportunity of bringing the state of affairs at Zeitoun Gyuksun, &c., such as are detailed in my despatches, to the notice of the Vali.

Djemil Pasha seemed to be generally aware of the state of Zeitoun, but he appeared to have formed an exaggerated idea of their courage and importance, and determination to resist the lawful authority of the Government, and it struck me that he was loath to deal with the question fearing a serious disturbance, and that thereby his own position might be jeopardized; the former idea I tried to dispel, but I do not know whether I was successful.

On my way here I learnt that the affair of the murderer who had remained in his house for fourteen months in fear of his life had been amicably settled, blood-money to the tune of 300 liras having been accepted, and he now appears in the streets; perhaps this is the best way of settling the difficulty; the other man who murdered the Kurd about two months ago is still at large, and I am assured could be easily arrested if the Government chose.

I find I must acquit the Government of any deliberate intention of allowing things to go on anyhow at Zeitoun with the object of bringing about an ultimate collision; it is due to slackness and fear on their part. They are afraid to deal with the question without definite orders from Stamboul, and these are not forthcoming. I am still of opinion, however, that the time will come when they will be forced to deal with it, and that, therefore, the sooner it is done the better; even now, firmness, tempered with discre-

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tion, is all that is necessary to establish the authority of the Government at Zeitoun. To their other misdemeanours I find I must add the manufacture of gunpowder; a good deal of this useful commodity is produced by the Zeitounlis and retailed to the villages around, otherwise I have nothing further to say about them.

During my absence in Aleppo an *émeute* occurred in Marash, and I found the Armenian community rather excited and alarmed on my return. It got about that an Armenian had violated a Moslem woman, and a large crowd of both parties quickly assembled in the streets near the house; blows were exchanged, but the police and military arrived in time to disperse the mob before matters became very serious; but I look upon Marash as in rather a dangerous state; the Armenians are so excitable and irritating, and the Moslems so fanatical, that it is possible a collision may occur. The Moslems number about three to one of the Armenians. A capable Governor with sufficient soldiers to keep order is much wanted; at present nearly all the troops are out in the district at Gyuksun, Albistan, and Zeitoun.

The Bimbashi of Gendarmerie mentioned in my No. has been got rid of as I predicted; it was a case of an honest man among thieves, or at all events of a man who tried to carry out his instructions, failing on account of opposition by those from whom he should have received assistance; charges were trumped up against him; the poor man had no one on his side; perhaps he was indiscreet, but if so he was driven to his indiscretion; at any rate the Mutessarif triumphed, and he was hustled off to Aleppo under arrest to be tried by Court Martial. The time has not yet arrived apparently when an honest official is appreciated, even in a corps nominally supervised by a European.

The Moudaiomoum Mouavin ("Prosecutor") was also removed. I never heard a man so universally condemned as corrupt. The Mufettish ("Inspector of Justice") admitted it, but yet, instead of being disgraced, he received a similar appointment at Urfa at once.

On my way here I visited Gyuksun, and was able to inquire more fully into the causes which led to the fight between the Circassians and Gyuksunlis last April. The Circassians (Absekhs)—a race generally badly spoken of, left Roumelia (Varna) about four years ago; eventually they were sent to Gyuksun, where the Government contributed something towards their support for some months before allotting them land. Gyuksun is situated in a well watered and fertile plain, about 35 miles north-west of Marash; there are about 300 Moslem and a few Christian houses, and, for this country, the people are prosperous. One Seyd Effendi was sent here to settle the Circassians, of whom there were about 120 houses. The Gyuksunlis say there were much less, but I think they count only those that spent a few months in their village; there were others in adjoining villages. The spot selected for their future home was about 6 miles north of Gyuksun, up one of the valleys leading down to the plain; the place, to all appearance, is not well favoured, only a few small strips along the river bank being available for cultivation; the Gyuksunlis say that they objected at the time, and that they were forced to sign a declaration that the land was empty; they say the land was really theirs, that they were in the habit of cultivating it, that it was sown at the time, and that the Circassians reaped their fields, and drove away a few of their people who lived there, all of which the Circassians on their part deny; but I will not weary your Lordship with assertions and counter-assertions which are always met with in this country; suffice it to say that Seyd Effendi settled them here in three small villages, and they received a paper setting forth their boundary, which they declare they have not overstepped. Last year, when I was at Gyuksun in June, not one word was said to me on the subject, but since then a feeling of apprehension seems to have laid hold of them that the Circassians will unsettle the district; that their numbers will increase (and I fancy there have been a few fresh arrivals); that the roads will be unsafe. There has been a difficulty about cutting grass for winter fodder for sheep along the banks of the river in the land allotted to the Circassians; these, and one or two small squabbles suffice to give the dog a bad name, and so the Gyuksunlis revived with warmth their claim to the river strips, and eventually started in force, forty or fifty of them, ostensibly to plough the land they claimed, which is immediately under one of the villages, but evidently also to see whether the Circassians were to be frightened into complying with their demand. Who fired the first shot it is impossible to say, but a fight ensued, and five Gyuksunlis and three or four Circassians were killed, and several wounded on either side. Troops were then sent from Marash to preserve order, and twenty-three Gyuksunlis and seven Circassians arrested and sent to the Marash prison, where they still lie. The Circassians were unwilling to submit themselves to the Marash authorities as they had no confidence in the Government there, and thought the Gyuksunlis had too much interest, and so at first did not wish to surrender themselves to the soldiers; eventually, when the villages were

surrounded, they did so without opposition, but an old man, unable to endure seeing his son arrested, drew his revolver and killed a soldier. With the exception of this act, I cannot find much fault with them. They look on the land as given to them, and naturally now, after two years, when they have built good houses, and are just beginning to go ahead, they object to its being taken from them. "We are poor and few in numbers," they say, "the Gyuksunlis are rich, and their numbers so great, that they could do what they liked; but they shall never turn us out alive;" and they mean it, I think. The fault, as usual, lies altogether with the Turkish Government; if the Gyuksunlis, as they assert, possess title-deeds to the fields which they were unwilling to give up, it was evidently unjust to make them over to the refugees, and it would have been absurd to establish them there where the only available land was—these same strips along the river; it was the usual system, I suppose, settle it somehow, and let the future take care of itself. When I was at Aleppo the Vali talked of sending a Commission to arrange matters; it would be a great shame now to remove the Circassians, and the only thing to do is for the Government to compensate in full those who have just claims to make; but the Gyuksunlis are making such a dead set against them, and, having a certain amount of influence, I am afraid the weakest may go to the wall. Anyhow, no stone will be left unturned to effect this result. Possibly they may get tired of it; and so long as troops remain at Gyuksun I do not anticipate a renewal of hostilities. The contrast between the two places—Gyuksun surrounded by miles of fertile plains, the bountiful harvest being just now collected in heaps all around the village, and the other a narrow valley, stony, and with but a few patches of millet, vegetables, and grass—is very striking.

I also visited Hadjin on my way here, and was able to learn how matters had gone there since I left Adana (*vide* my No.). Abédine Pasha, the Adana Vali, has fulfilled his promise, and removed Bahri Bey, the former Kaimakam, and the people seem contented with the present one; but I do not think he is to remain. The claim against the Hadjinlis for 52,000 piastres, taken by Kozan Oglu, has been dropped for the present, and the only thing which now troubles them is the detention of six or seven of their Notables in Adana during the hot weather. They have been summoned there to answer for the illegal or alleged illegal proceedings of the Armenian Council, which has been reported to the Vali as exceeding the limits of its functions, and dealing with matters other than those affecting the Church. They have been detained some three months, and nothing done so far towards their trial or release; they are kept in an uncomfortable state of suspense, and I fancy that the Vali will content himself with making them endure a little of the heat of the plain, and then the affair will drop. The Armenians deny that they have done anything contrary to their rights; but I think that, through ignorance, they have done enough to give the Government an excuse for making them uncomfortable. Anyhow, it is no great matter, as the men are not in prison; and perhaps if I were to write to the Vali on the subject he might feel bound to push the prosecution. The affair had better rest, therefore, for the present.

I tried to impress the Hadjinlis with the necessity of looking at their own position, rather than always being on the *qui vive* for a grievance against the Government. There they are, from 2,000 to 3,000 houses built on the steep slopes of a rocky promontory, far down in a valley in the heart of the Taurus; perhaps there is land enough in the neighbourhood, and room enough in the town, for 500 houses, but that is all that should remain there.

The result of the present state is extreme poverty and indescribable filth, and if it was not for the good water and pure mountain air, they must be decimated by a pestilence. The majority go off in the winter to the villages, where they pursue trades, or as pedlars, or to Adana to seek employment, and so earn a few hundred piastres, sufficient to keep them going through the summer, which they spend at Hadjin. They have more confidence than the Zeitounlis, and, thanks to the American missionaries, who have a ladies' establishment there, are not so backward in education; but the two places are very similar in many respects.

We discussed several projects, and I promised them that if they could think of anything feasible in the emigration way, that I would do my best to further their object. It would seem impossible that Hadjin could ever become the seat of any considerable trade itself. It lies about 40 miles north of Sis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 72.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 714.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 20, 1881.*

IT is officially stated that, on the advice of the Minister of Justice and Worship, the Sultan has conferred the "Berat of Investiture" upon Mgr. Mighirditch, the Catholicos of Sis.

The above proceeding has given great umbrage to the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople, who is reported to have remonstrated against the action of the Porte.

I shall content myself in the present despatch with recording this incident, as I propose shortly to address your Lordship on the general subject of the Sis Catholicate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 73.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 719.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August 22, 1881.*

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch to your Lordship No. 411 of the 24th May last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti with reference to the Protestants of Ordoo.

I have caused further verbal representations to be made to the Sublime Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 46.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, August 13, 1881.*

THE Armenian Bishop has informed me that he had received a few days since a petition, bearing fifty-four Christian and Mussulman signatures, from the inhabitants of the village of Hassandjik-Pounar, Nahié of Tchamiich, in the district of Ordoo, begging that a functionary should be specially delegated by the Porte to inquire into their condition, which was no longer endurable in consequence of the misconduct of the Laz immigrants living in that nahié.

It is remarkable that this petition, which is addressed to a Christian prelate, should be signed by Mussulmans, a circumstance which can only be accounted for by the state of discouragement in which they have fallen.

The Armenian Bishop communicated this petition to his superiors at Constantinople, and also to Sirri Pasha, who gave immediate orders to the Kaïmakam of Ordoo to afford due protection to the petitioners, but a radical change in the situation of Lazes towards the population is impossible with the means now at the disposal of the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 74.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 722. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 22, 1881.*

YESTERDAY I saw a gentleman who has succeeded in obtaining an interview with the Sheikh Obeidullah.

Sheikh Obeidullah has been removed from the kiosk near the Palace into which he was originally received, and my informant describes him as being meanly lodged, and

surrounded by Turkish soldiers. He seemed in bad spirits, and a portion of the favour shown to him by the Sultan on his first arrival appears to be withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 75.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

E. MS.

(No. 723.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 23, 1881.*

HAVING now had frequent opportunities of consulting with Colonel Sir Charles W. Wilson and Major Trotter (whom I have summoned to Constantinople for the purpose) on the character and conduct of the various Ottoman authorities both in the Lesser and the Greater Armenia, and the end of Ramazan being at hand, I waited yesterday upon Said Pasha, and informed him that having already pressed upon his Highness in general terms the necessity of at once proceeding to inaugurate the Armenian reforms in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, I had now come, by the express orders of my Government, for the purpose of calling his attention to the flagrant misconduct and incapacity of various high Turkish officials in both Armenias, to whose cruelty, corruption, and stupidity must be attributed the anarchy prevailing in those provinces, and the intolerable misery of their inhabitants, both Mahommedan and Christian.

I then proceeded to name the chief offenders as follows:—Ismail Hakki Pasha, Vali of Sivas; Izzet Pasha, Vali of Diarbekir; Mehemet Effendi, Procureur-General of Sivas; Ibrahim Bey, Mutessarif of Bayazid; Munir Pasha, Mutessarif of Marash, and I intimated that nothing short of the dismissal of these persons, and the substitution of others, would satisfy the necessities of the situation.

Before entering upon the subject I had provided myself with carefully prepared memoranda in French, founded on the despatches of Sir Charles W. Wilson, Major Trotter, Captain Clayton, Captain Everett, and Lieutenant Bennet, copies of which I inclose,* in which the malpractices of these individuals were displayed, and I proceeded to read their contents to his Highness. On concluding I observed that the discharge of such a task had been most ungrateful to my feelings, and that his Highness must not suppose I was laying a criminal information against the officials inculpated; some of the accusations against them were undoubtedly only based on report, and on the general conviction entertained by public opinion in their regard, and others might be susceptible of explanation; but, on the other hand, the substance of the documents I had read to his Highness emanated from gentlemen of great intelligence, experience, and humanity, and of the highest honour, who would be incapable of bringing such charges unless they were convinced of their substantial truth and justice, and that, consequently, after every deduction had been made which a spirit of fairness and impartiality could suggest on behalf of the incriminated individuals, it was more than sufficiently apparent that they were utterly unfit for the posts which they at present occupied. Moreover, I added, with respect to the Mutessarif of Bayazid there were especial circumstances, which I had already referred to in a previous note to the Porte, rendering his immediate dismissal inevitable.

The Prime Minister had listened to what I had read with great attention, and he now proceeded to thank me for my communication, which he accepted as a proof of the sincere interest which Her Majesty's Government took in the welfare of Turkey; and he gave me to understand that he would give to my observations the attention they deserved, and that he expected to be able to deal with the cases referred to in a manner satisfactory to your Lordship.

In order to give still greater point to the observations I have recorded, I informed the Prime Minister of your Lordship's suggestion that I should get extracts from Captain Everett's despatches translated into Turkish, and bring them myself to the personal knowledge of the Sultan.

Having thus accomplished the more immediate object of my visit to Said Pasha, I again reverted to the larger question of general reforms in Asia Minor, and especially in Armenia.

In doing so, I endeavoured to make his Highness understand that, although the exceptional misery of the Christians in Armenia had attracted the special attention of Europe, it would be a mistake to suppose that the wretched condition of the Mahommedan population was not also a matter of the deepest solicitude to Her Majesty's Govern-

* Not yet received.

ment, and that if I was instructed to urge these reforms upon the Porte it was in the general interests of the Sultan and of Turkey, and not from a desire to see exceptional privileges conferred upon the more or less scattered members of a particular ecclesiastical rite. If the term Armenia was used, it was in a geographical rather than in an ethnic sense, and the Porte would labour under a mischievous misapprehension if it thought that either Europe or England were desirous of creating a hostile or aggressive Armenian *imperium* in the bosom of the Ottoman Empire. The material elements of the problem did not lend itself to such a solution of the question. Unlike the Greeks in Thessaly, and the Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia and in the Principality, who were agglomerated in homogeneous masses, the Armenians were disseminated up and down the land in scattered groups, and were so dovetailed into the rest of the population as to leave few localities in which they could claim a numerical preponderance, and that, consequently, it would be the sheerest folly, if from jealousy or fear of their political pretensions as a nationality, the Porte should refuse them good government and the benefit of equal laws. It was not in that direction that danger was to be apprehended. On the contrary, it was evidently the interest of the Ottoman Government to elevate their condition, to conciliate and bind them to the fortunes of the Empire, to make use of their natural intelligence and their aptitude for public employment. Unlike the Slav races, or even the Greeks, there was a natural sympathy between the Turkish and Armenian races; and only factitious circumstances had engendered dissensions between them. If only the wrong-headedness born of religious fanaticism were got rid of by the dominant race, the Armenians might prove the most potent bulwark of the Sultan's eastern dominions. As far as I could learn, this was the view taken by the moderate section of the Armenians. They were alive to the danger of rendering themselves, by the unreasonableness of their pretensions, objects of hostility to the population amongst whom they lived. Though acknowledging the greater material prosperity of their kindred, who had already begun to benefit from Russian administration, they evidently would still prefer, if a tolerable *modus vivendi* were created for them, to remain under the rule of the Sultan, in the expectation that, when associated on equal terms with their Turkish fellow-subjects in the government of the country, a fairer and more promising field would be presented to them in the future than if they were engulfed in a despotic Empire of which they would only form an insignificant province.

The dread of seeing their independent ecclesiastical organization abolished, and their spiritual autonomy merged in the National Church of Russia, was an additional inducement to them to regard with jealousy and aversion the aggressive designs attributed to that Power. To my mind it appeared, therefore, that, if only the Porte desired it, there was still time for the Sultan to recover the confidence and affection of his Armenian Christian subjects; and, as far as I was concerned, I should be happy to contribute to this result by advising the Armenian community to content themselves with such a moderate and reasonable settlement as would secure all the rights, privileges, and advantages which a minority could claim. On the other hand, it must be remembered that, if things were permitted to continue in their present condition, but one consequence could ensue. Already I had been told by an Armenian, who was anything but favourable to Russia, that the contrast between the condition of his fellow-countrymen on the Russian and on Turkish side of the frontier was very staggering to his political predilections. His hopes were bound up with a Turkish Armenia, well governed and contented, but the fruits already exhibited by ten years of Russian administration had begun to make him hesitate whether his people ought not to fix their hopes on its extension westward, rather than on the regeneration of his native country.

"Such being the conclusions to which one of your best friends is tempted to come," I said to his Highness, "what will be the resolves which the more violent and impatient leaders of the nation will be driven to embrace if you permit these contrasts to continue? You think, perhaps, that England's interests are so bound up with the integrity of your eastern provinces that you can brave all consequences. But a great change has taken place in English opinion. Russia is not the bugbear she used to be. Many people think that with an independent Afghanistan, Hindostan is as safe as an island, and that the advance of Russia, whether southward or westward, is of less concern to Great Britain than to any other European nation. On the other hand, England having become of late years far more democratic than formerly, public opinion has grown very sensitive to human suffering.

"I have already been instructed to warn you that, anxious as Her Majesty's Government might be to preserve to the Sultan his province of Tripoli, you must not rely upon our countenance if you wantonly provoke a neighbouring European Power. In the same manner the day may come when, wearied by the continually recurring tales of anarchy

and murder, rapine, and misgovernment, which is rendering the burden of human life in Armenia insupportable, Great Britain will remain an indifferent spectator to the rescue of its population from the corrupt and tyrannical rule of your Pashas by a liberating Power."

His Highness again thanked me; said he fully felt the force of what I had stated, and would repeat every word of it to the Sultan.

In reply, I begged his Highness to remember that my latter observations must be considered as only my own personal appreciation of the situation, and not as having emanated from your Lordship.

I ended by again entreating the Prime Minister to urge the Sultan to send some personage of character and distinction to Armenia as a High Commissioner, with full power to govern the country (as was done in the case of Fuad Pasha) until the proposed reforms were elaborated. His Highness seemed to imply that this might be possible.

I trust that your Lordship will find nothing amiss or out of harmony with the instructions I have received in the foregoing paragraphs, which have of necessity been written in great haste to catch the mail, and which only give a very condensed abstract of my yesterday's conversation with the Prime Minister.

Having now had some little time to study the Armenian problem, I have convinced myself that it will be impossible to disengage it from the general question of the good government of the Asiatic provinces of Asia Minor. From the fact of Armenia having been mentioned in the Treaty of Berlin, and from the province exhibiting the predominant evils of Turkish rule in an exceptionally aggravated form, as well as from the large Christian population which it contains, it will be very desirable to require the Porte to commence its task of internal reform with Armenia, and to concentrate all our attention upon the consummation of this object; but in doing so it will be most important to avoid rendering the Armenian community an object of jealousy and hatred to the Mussulman population and the Mussulman rulers of Turkey, by inflating their pretensions as a distinct race beyond what circumstances justify.

It is quite evident that whatever is to be done must be done more or less by persuasion rather than intimidation, a weapon which will only prove really formidable in the hands of Russia. Although, at the instance of your Lordship, Germany, France, and Austria may lend us their assistance, it will be, I fear, more out of complaisance than from any real enthusiasm in the cause, and the Turks are only too quick in divining when Europe ceases to be united. On the other hand, from the geographical situation of the country, those material means of bringing pressure, which were so effectual in settling the Greek and Montenegrin questions, are entirely wanting. It appears to me, therefore, that it would be prudent, in approaching the Armenian question, that our demands should be confined to what it would be possible for the Turks to grant with a due regard to their own dignity and interests; the maintenance of which I need not say will be perfectly compatible with the widest interpretation of the just pretensions of our Christian clients.

The Feast of Bairam will be held at the end of this week, and I propose immediately after to open proceedings by suggesting to my colleagues that we should ask for an answer to the collective note of the Powers sent in on the 7th September, 1880, and to which no reply has been yet returned; and at this moment Sir C. Wilson and Major Trotter, the two men who know the country best, are employed in drawing up a scheme of provincial administration for both the Greater and Lesser Armenia, which may serve as a basis for the consultations of the Ambassadors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S.—The Sultan has sent me a message that he would desire to see me after Bairam, and, with your Lordship's approval, I propose to urge upon him the same considerations as are contained in this despatch.

D.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Indictment against the Valis of Sivas and Diarbekir, the Public Prosecutor of Sivas, and the Mutessarifs of Mamuh and Bayazid.

Izzat Pasha, Vali of Diarbekir.

IN consequence of his incapacity and want of firmness, affairs of the vilâyet are managed by the Mektubdji, who bears an undesirable reputation.

In consequence of Vali's feebleness, things had got much worse during his tenure of office.

This causes want of security and stagnation of trade; crime is unpunished, and many criminals who can afford to pay escape with impunity.

At Djezireh, when a body of imprisoned rebels were handed over by Saïd Pasha to Izzet Pasha, who was then Commissioner for the suppression of the revolt in Kurdistan, a great number were permitted to escape the following night.

In 1879 the weakness of the Local Government led to several encounters between Arabs and Kurds, in which many people were killed.

During past two years the mountain Caza of Midyat has been in a deplorable state of anarchy, which was augmented by the misdeeds of an unjust and corrupt official, the Mutessarif of Mardin, who was dismissed and brought to trial at Diarbekir; but the Vali took his part, closed the mouths of witnesses, and got him acquitted.

At the same time several other officials, who had been guilty of corruption and other crimes, were tried before the Idaré Medjliss, and, to the astonishment of everybody, acquitted.

The Vali has extended protection to corrupt officials, and several well-known offenders have been appointed by him to posts under the Government—for instance, Hadji Dundh Effendi and Djezerehli Mustapha Effendi. This latter, although an order had been issued by the Porte never to employ him again, has been named by the Vali to be Kaïmakam of Kishla.

On the departure of Abédine Pasha, the Vali restored nearly the whole of the zaptieh officers whom Abédine had dismissed for incompetency or other reasons.

In the winter of 1879-80 riots occurred at Diarbekir, caused mainly by two members of the Vali's Medjliss having speculated improperly in the Government grain during the famine. Vali is said to have derived profit from these speculations; at all events, he was responsible for the dissatisfaction which gave rise to the above events.

There is a chronic state of rebellion among the Kurdish tribes in the Malatia district.

The Vali and his subordinate, the Mektubdji, should be removed, as they are mainly responsible for this corruption and disorder.

Ismail Hakki Pasha, Vali of Sivas.

Before arrival of this Vali, the country round Sivas was safe and quiet; various projects for the improvement of the people, inaugurated by Abédine Pasha, had been set on foot.

Since his arrival, in April 1880, things have been going from bad to worse, till, now, Sivas is the worst-governed vilayet in Anatolia. This is due almost entirely to the personal influence of Ismail Hakki Pasha. He was formerly Mutessarif of Samsoon, where his corrupt practices were well known.

The disgraceful treatment of the refugees who were landed in Samsoon in 1878 and 1879, and the lawlessness of the district at that time between Samsoon and Amasia, are attributed to his misgovernment. On arriving at Sivas, he filled the more important offices with his friends and relations. The Mektubdji (Secretary-General) is married to the Vali's niece; the Major of Zaptiehs and the Chief Clerk of the Administrative Councils are married to sisters of the Mektubdji. The Public Prosecutor is also a late Samsoon official, and two other Samsoon officials have also been appointed to places of responsibility at Tokat. The Inspector of Justice was, while at Konieh, notoriously corrupt and inattentive to his duties. The Vali and his friends are said to drink to excess, and the Defterdar, who is otherwise independent, is tied to them by the same vice.

Complaints of oppression and misgovernment are constantly made by Moslems and Christians alike.

Of the murderers imprisoned by Abédine Pasha, all have been released except one.

The escape of the Kurdish Beys was effected so openly that action of Vali can be construed only in one sense.

Milo Ali, celebrated for his ill-treatment of Christians, has been allowed to return, and, although at present quiet, his mere presence in the country is an element of danger.

While few criminals are punished, people are imprisoned on slight provocation and do not get out without paying for their liberty.

A Christian woman accused of robbery was confined in the house of a Turkish

Imam and kept for two months in irons, besides which she is reported to have been frequently violated by the Imam.

The Vali and his friends get paid, but the other officials receive their salaries most irregularly. Salary of one of the Judges is almost openly withheld on account of the independence he shows.

At the elections to the Councils in May, the Vali exerted to the utmost his influence in the Committee of selection, and refused to allow many respected members of the several communities to be entered on the electoral lists. Every one who showed independence during the late Armenian trial has been removed from the Court.

The state of affairs in the whole Vilayet of Sivas is disgraceful to the government of Hakki Pasha.

Mehmed Effendi, Public Prosecutor at Sivas.

The Public Prosecutor at Sivas is said to be almost as much to blame as the Vali for the disgraceful state of things in that vilayet, and Colonel Wilson says he should, if possible, be removed at the same time.

Munif Pasha, Mutessarif of Marash.

Munif Pasha is weak and incapable, and ought to be replaced by an energetic man. There do not seem to be any specific charges of misgovernment or corruption against him, only the general one of incapacity to cope with the serious difficulties by which he is surrounded.

Ibrahim Bey, Mutessarif of Bayazid.

On his arrival in the autumn of 1879 Ibrahim Bey took every opportunity to upbraid and insult the Christians. In spite of the famine then existing, he collected the taxes with utmost rigour, acting, it is thought, in this matter contrary to the orders of the Porte.

He has never carried out the inquiry ordered by the Porte into the massacre at Bayazid during the war, and one of the authors of this massacre, a certain Sherrif Effendi, is now President of the Committee for collecting taxes, while others equally compromised are still members of the Government of the sandjak.

Early in 1880 the Vali of Erzeroum, under orders from the Porte, sent grain for distribution to the poor; but no mercy was shown where payment could not be given, and forty-five Kurds were allowed to die from hunger where a little ordinary charity might have kept them alive. The Christians got none of the seed sent by the Government for distribution.

In May 1880 the Mutessarif, in the attacks on the Kurds, himself took a large share of the booty. Ali Khan, who, in revenge for this, plundered several Christian and Kurdish villages, was afterwards for some weeks on Turkish territory without any attempt being made to arrest him.

Ibrahim Bey has given the appointment of the newly-formed communes to the highest bidder.

He is also accused of having caught and imprisoned several wealthy Kurds who had been guilty of crimes, and then released them on payment of ransoms of from 40 to 50 liras each.

He showed no mercy to the peasants in the collection of taxes, imprisoning and beating the defaulters, and, when no money existed, seizing their implements of agriculture and even their winter supply of food.

The robberies during the past year in the collection of tithes in the Bayazid Sandjak are notorious, but the culprits are, it is said, let off on payment of money to the Mutessarif.

Where grave crimes have been committed, the Mutessarif, instead of sending the criminals to be tried as they ought to be before the Central Court, has extorted money from the culprits and let them out of prison.

He is accused also, on trustworthy authority, of openly protecting local Notables to whose houses property has been traced.

The hostile behaviour of Ibrahim Bey to Consul Everett in arresting Ghaziros Effendi, whom he had employed to distribute relief, has been brought to the notice of

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the Porte, and is another proof of his unfitness for his post. His unjustifiable conduct in this matter prevented the starving inhabitants receiving the relief which Consul Everett had in his hands to give them, and seems to Her Majesty's Government so unjustifiable that they have instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador to make further representations to the Porte if he should not have been already dismissed owing to the previous complaints which have been made by the Embassy as to his proceedings.

Robbery and brigandage are more rampant than ever, and the latest accounts from the Bayazid district show that the Mutessarif himself is known to be connected with some of the cases of robbery complained of.

No. 76.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 727.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 23, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to state that on the 15th instant I received a telegram from Mr. Consul Biliotti informing me that Sirri Pasha, the Vali of Trebizond, had been dismissed from his post without real cause for complaint, and that his recall might lead to disastrous results for the population of the province.

On the strength of this telegram I thought it desirable to inquire at the Porte the reason of Sirri Pasha's dismissal, and I have been favoured by the Foreign Minister, as well as by the Minister of the Interior, with explanations on the subject.

Assim Pasha expressed to me his conviction that, had Sirri Pasha been maintained as Vali of Trebizond, the consequences would have been most serious, as he had incurred the dislike of the whole population of the province, and his Excellency attributed this result in a great measure to the fact that Sirri Pasha was still young, and consequently apt to deal with questions in a rash and inconsiderate manner.

Mahmoud Nedim Pasha entirely shared this conviction, and also stated confidentially that Sirri Pasha, being a relative of Osman Pasha, the Minister of War, had presumed too far on the support of that influential personage, and by his arbitrary conduct had caused the widest dissatisfaction amongst the inhabitants of the province, who had ultimately sent a deputation to the Porte with a petition demanding his recall.

I had intended yesterday to have mooted this subject further with the Prime Minister, but more important topics occupied the time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 77.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

E. MS.
(No. 443.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 26, 1881.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch to me No. 361 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that I had some conversation to-day with M. de Giers as to the question of pressing the Turkish Government to introduce reforms into Armenia. His Excellency said that experience had demonstrated that the Turks would only yield a point when pressure was brought to bear upon them by all the Powers at once, that as soon as they perceived that any one Power was lukewarm or cold in any question, they did their best to evade it, and that he therefore considered that as it was only by the united action of the Great Powers that the Montenegrin and Greek questions had been solved, united action on their part would be indispensable in order to effect a solution of the Armenian question; but he said that he thought it would be advisable to await the final settlement of the Greek question before seriously entering upon it. His Excellency suggested, with a view to endeavouring to insure united action with regard to it on the part of the Powers, that no better basis, for various reasons, upon which to found their representations to the Porte, could be selected than the collective note which they had presented about a year or a year and a half ago,* and to which only an imperfect answer had been returned, as he said that as all the Powers had signed it, they could not now well offer any serious objections to its being taken as a basis or starting point. I asked M. de

* Collective Note, dated Constantinople, September 7, 1880 (?) ("Turkey No. 23").

Giers if he would be willing to take steps to endeavour to bring about an understanding between the Powers on this point, to which he replied, "Not alone;" but I am under the impression that he would be ready to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government, in order, if possible, to attain that object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 78.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 367.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 26, 1881.*

I SPOKE to-day to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of your Lordship's despatch No. 361 of the 19th instant, and told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed to act on Prince Bismarck's advice, and endeavour to concert with his Russian colleague the best means of keeping the question of Armenian reforms before the attention of the Porte, and that Her Majesty's Government would be glad if the Chancellor would also give instructions to the German Embassy in the sense which his Highness had indicated on previous occasions.

M. de Busch replied that the German Government, as your Lordship had been informed, would not be disposed to take any initiative in pressing the Armenian question on the Porte, but that Prince Bismarck had already, and would again, instruct the German Representative at Constantinople to support any advice which might be agreed upon by England and Russia, the only two Powers directly interested in the Armenian question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 79.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30, 3 P.M.)

(No. 357.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 30, 1881, 1·40 P.M.*

THE Mutessarif of Bayazid has been dismissed.

No. 80.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 421.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 31, 1881, 7 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's language and views on the Armenian question, as reported in your despatch No. 723 of the 23rd instant.

No. 81.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 614. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 31, 1881.*

I HAVE read with much interest the account contained in your Excellency's despatch No. 723 of the 22nd instant of your conversation with Assim Pasha as to the importance of introducing certain reforms in the government of the Asiatic provinces of the Empire without further delay.

Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the language employed by your Excellency on this occasion, and agree with the views which you submit, at the conclusion of your despatch, as to the most efficacious mode of dealing with the Armenian question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 82.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 324.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 31, 1881.*

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople containing the record of a very important conversation which he has had with the Turkish Prime Minister relative to the condition of the Asiatic provinces of the Empire, and the reforms which are indispensable for their improvement.*

I have to instruct you to inform the Russian Government of the contents of this despatch, taking care, however, to omit those passages which allude to Russia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 83.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 455.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 1, 1881.*

I MENTIONED to M. de Giers yesterday that I had reported to your Lordship his opinion that united action on the part of the Great Powers would be indispensable in order to induce the Porte to introduce administrative reforms into the provinces of the Ottoman Empire inhabited by Armenians, and I observed to his Excellency that the position of their Representatives at Constantinople, when they came to deal with the question, would be much strengthened if they could point to the fact that the Governments of Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro had come to an equitable settlement of the agrarian rights of their Mussulman subjects, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency replied that in Servia the Government was endeavouring to assimilate the Mussulman land laws, which were based upon the right of conquest, and which carried with them many privileges, with the land laws of the Principality, and that it was a task of no small difficulty; and with regard to Bulgaria, his Excellency said that General Ehrnrooth had turned his attention to the subject and had effected a great deal.

M. de Giers, who appeared fully alive to the necessity of having this matter equitably settled, said that the Earl of Dufferin had spoken to M. Onou, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, and that he had returned a very proper answer to his Excellency's observations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 84.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 104.)
My Lord, *Tehran, July 30, 1881.*

THE Persian Ambassador at Constantinople lately informed his Government by telegraph that instructions would be sent to the Turkish authorities in Van for the arrest and detention under surveillance, pending further orders of Sheikh Kadir and Sadyk, the sons of Sheikh Obeidullah, with a view to their being prevented from again inciting the Kurdish population on the frontier to renew their incursions on the Persian territory.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs telegraphed the purport of this communication to the Persian Consul at Van, and desired him to ascertain what steps were being taken to give effect to these instructions. His Excellency read to me on the 28th instant a telegram which he had received from Van in reply to his inquiry.

The Persian Consul stated that he had been in communication with the chief civil and military authorities, and that he was informed by them that no such instructions had been received from the Porte. In their opinion, however, there was no danger of a fresh outbreak now that Sheikh Obeidullah himself had been withdrawn from the Persian frontier, and it was not advisable, they thought, to insist upon the arrest of the Sheikh's sons, as that would only tend to give them more importance in the eyes of the Kurds, and there could be no difficulty hereafter in having them seized whenever it was considered necessary to do so.

* No. 75.

The Turkish authorities at Van further stated that they were led to believe that Sheikh Sadik had crossed the frontier and was living in concealment in some part of the district occupied by the Persian Chief Ali Khan, Shekak, and Hamzah Agha, one of the ringleaders in last year's revolt, was said to have also taken refuge within the Persian territory, under the protection of another Persian tribe.

The accuracy of this information is questioned by the Persian Government, but the Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to the Ameer-i-Nizam, Governor-General of Azerbaijan, who is now at Oroomiah, to make inquiry and take prompt steps for their capture, should there be any foundation for the statement that these persons are now on Persian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 85.

Consul-General Abbott to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Tabreez, August 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies and extracts of despatches, forming four inclosures, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran on subjects of political interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Tabreez, June 7, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Ameer-i-Nizam received to-day intelligence from Khoi of the arrest of Sheikh Obeidullah on the Turkish frontier by Moussa Pasha, who will convey that Chief to Constantinople.

Some months ago the Sheikh was summoned to the Turkish capital by the Sultan, but he has persistently evaded the orders of the Porte in this respect. His defiant attitude towards Turkey and the repeated representations made by the Persian Government to the Porte that it was indispensable for the peace of both frontiers to remove him from their vicinity, have at length exhausted the patience of the Sultan's advisers and induced them to adopt a course which it is to be regretted they did not follow at a much earlier date.

There is reason to believe that even if the Sheikh had resumed hostilities with Persia, he would have speedily encountered a complete defeat. He is entirely without artillery, with which the Persians are now well supplied, and they are in a position to suppress effectually any insurrectionary movement on the Kurdish side.

Five regiments with 1,500 cavalry and four Uchatius guns under the Nassir ed Dowleh, who is accompanied by Captain Standeisky of the Austrian corps as Military Adviser, proceeded hence to Oroomiah a month ago, in addition to the forces and artillery already stationed in that province under the Ikbal ed Dowleh, the Itimades Sultaneh and Captain Wagner. These troops are in excellent discipline and went through a series of manœuvres, before their departure to Oroomiah at Yanook on the outskirts of Tabreez, which I was invited by the Ameer-i-Nizam to witness, and which did great credit to the able Prince who commanded the force.

There are at present twenty regiments in different localities of the frontier. These troops, numbering in all to about 15,000 men and armed, for the most part, with chassepôt rifles, are located at Oroomiah, Sonni Beradost, Soug Boulak, Merghever, Lahigan, Khoi, and Selmas. They are fully adequate for purposes of defence. Three regiments remain in this town.

A few days ago, Djelleel, a Mikree Chief who participated in the massacre at Miandrab, was condemned to death and blown from a mortar in the barrack yard of this town.

The Ameer-i-Nizam is without doubt the fittest person the Shah could have selected for the government of this province, and it would be a fatal error to recall him to the capital under any pretext whatever. Possessed of great energy and a strong will, he is restoring order

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throughout Azarbaijan, where there is a marked diminution of crime since he assumed office, whilst his presence is indispensable as a check upon Kurdish incursions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 24.)
(Extract.)

Tabreez, August 3, 1881.

I HAD this day the honour to send your Excellency the following telegram:—

"Report just reaches me, but needs confirmation, that Hamza Agha and several of his tribe have been captured by stratagem by Governor of Soug Boulak and killed. Details by post."

Last Friday, the 29th July, Hamza Agha and two of his relatives came to Soug Boulak to beg the Vezir Fevaïd to obtain their pardon from the Shah, but on approaching the Vezir's tent they were all put to death by his Excellency's orders. They were then decapitated, and their heads were sent to Oroomiah to the Ameer-i-Nizam. Twenty of Hamza Agha's servants, who tried to defend their master, were also put to death. Three of the Vezir's servants were killed and three wounded.

Kakala, a brother of Hamza Agha, also went to Soug Boulak but the Vezir Fevaïd afterwards gave him a robe of honour, and sent him into the villages to calm the feelings of the inhabitants.

Inclosure 3 in No. 85.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 25.)
(Extract.)

Tabreez, August 4, 1881.

ACCORDING to more recent intelligence, it was the brother of the Cazy of Soug Boulak who, together with Kadir Agha, induced Hamza Agha to come as a suppliant to the Vezir Fevaïd's tent.

Inclosure 4 in No. 85.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 28.)
Sir,

Tabreez, August 8, 1881.

THE Ameer-i-Nizam, Governor-General of this province, whose departure to Oroomiah and other districts was reported in my despatch No. 18, will probably return to Tabreez at the close of the Ramazan Fast.

Enoushirwan Mirza, a Prince of the Royal Blood, is discharging with energy and intelligence the duties of Acting Governor in this town.

As far as I can judge, from the accounts which reach me, the Ameer's mission has been crowned with success. He is giving, so to speak, a finishing touch to the work commenced by the Sepeh Salar, and by a judicious combination of firmness and conciliation, has been able to restore order on the Kurdish frontiers, thus rendering most important services to his Sovereign and country.

Hassan Ali Khan, Vezir Fevaïd, formerly Persian Ambassador at Paris and at present Governor of Soug Boulak, has ably seconded the Ameer-i-Nizam in this respect.

The Shah has selected in troublous times two officials who are men of action, and who ought to be retained in their present positions until disaffection and treason have been effectually crushed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 85.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 29.)
Sir,

Tabreez, August 9, 1881.

SHEIKH OBEIDULLAH having been disposed of for the time being, several of the ringleaders in last year's insurrection brought to punishment, and order restored on this side of the frontier, the Persian Government, with a view to its permanent maintenance, will have to consider what course they had best pursue in their future relations with the Shekak tribe on the borders of Selmas.

I have had the honour, in my official correspondence with your Excellency, to refer to the proceedings of these nomads who, dwelling in Persian territory under the allegiance of the Shah, commit depredations in Persia and Turkey, thus causing disputes to arise between those two States.

It is not improbable that the Porte will now request Persia to place a more effectual control over Ali Khan, Chief of the Shekaks, and that the attitude of the Turkish Government towards Sheikh Obeidullah will to some extent depend upon how Persia responds to their representations in this respect.

In my despatch to Her Majesty's Legation, No. 51 of the 26th July, 1877, sent home in my No. 14, dated the 1st August of the same year, I have referred to a reciprocal engagement between Persia and Turkey as a measure which, under certain contingencies, might tend to promote a peaceful solution of chronic frontier disputes; but neither of those Powers could be expected to entertain such a plan without arriving at a clear understanding regarding the guarantees to be given on both sides.

It appears of some importance, in dealing with such a question, not to overlook the welfare of the mixed populations within both boundaries. One of the results of the Kurdish insurrection has necessarily been to weaken Persia and Turkey, but if they have profited by past experience, they may be more disposed than formerly to concur in arrangements made for their mutual interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 86.

Consul-General Abbott to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tabreez, August 11, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Memorandum which I have drawn up regarding the Kurdish question in its relation to the Armenian communities.

It fell to my lot last year to have an opportunity, which no other member of Her Majesty's Service has had, of investigating that question from every point of view.

At the same time, I beg to solicit your Lordship's indulgence towards me for having troubled you with the present Memorandum, which belongs rather to the department of a Diplomatic than a Consular Officer.

My apology for doing so is the exceptional position in which I was placed during the Kurdish invasion of Persia.

I had intended sending the present despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte under flying seal, but, on consideration, deemed it proper to abstain from doing so, as your Lordship will be the fittest judge whether the Memorandum contains anything likely to interest his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

WHEN Sheikh Obeidallah arrives at Constantinople, and Persia calls upon the Porte to prevent him or his adherents returning to the vicinity of the two frontiers, the Porte's officials will probably bring forward endless subterfuges, and hesitate to deal with the question in a straightforward manner.

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The Turkish Government will, doubtless, intrench itself behind the assertion that the invasion of Persia by Sheikh Obeidullah was merely an ordinary raid—one of those isolated acts of brigandage incidental to conterminous States, situated as Turkey and Persia are.

A repetition of the havoc and bloodshed which followed in the wake of the Kurdish insurrection last year, resulting in the massacre of unoffending populations of the Armenian and Nestorian, as well as Mahommedan and Hebrew persuasions, would, on purely humanitarian grounds, justify a joint remonstrance to the Porte on the part of the European Powers; but the Porte must be aware that to connive at proceedings which imperil the existence of her Armenian subjects would be highly impolitic on her part, and strangely at variance with the principles involved in the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

A recognition of this fact on the part of the Porte would, I believe, tend to obviate a renewal of Kurdish troubles which endanger the safety of peaceful Christian populations in the dominions of the Sultan and the Shah.

With regard to the formation of Kurdistan into a separate Principality, the close relations in which I was unavoidably placed with Sheikh Obeidullah last year, and the conversation I had with him on the occasion of his furnishing me with an escort through the revolted districts, enable me to express the opinion that, if he entertained such a scheme, it was perfectly illusory. The charm of the Sheikh's manner, the intellectual gifts with which nature has endowed him, the nobility of his demeanour, the courtesy and hospitality he showed me when I was entirely in his hands, his powers of persuasive argument, are facts which I shall look back upon as forming an interesting episode in my life. If the Sheikh or any other Chief of equal attainments be in existence when the Kurds are fit for autonomy, it will be time to give serious attention to the subject. If the Porte really believed that the Sheikh entertained such views, it is surprising that they did nothing to restrain him.

On reviewing past events, it appears to me that the Kurdish rising may be considered as one of the signs of the times in which we live in the East. It was one of the natural processes which, amongst others, is at work for the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire; but it would be a fallacy to suppose that such a movement could have contributed to building up a permanent Kurdish Principality; that it was an important factor in the Eastern question, or could have been turned to account as an instrument for reducing order out of chaos. The probabilities are that the extension of autonomy to the Kurds would have prompted the Arab populations to clamour for the same privileges. Such a condition of things would have curtailed the power of the Caliph to a great extent. Still, I am far from thinking that Europe has heard the last of this Kurdish question. It will probably be asked hereafter, What is to be done with Kurdistan?

Reverting to Persia, the probabilities are that, when she perceives that the Porte recognizes the danger of fomenting chronic strife on the frontier, and is disposed to be guided by the lights of common sense, she will be ready to listen to the advice of England, counselling her to place an effectual control upon Ali Khan Shekak and other Persian Kurds and tribes of whom Turkey has long complained.

After a lengthened residence in this country, I have no hesitation in saying that Persia will strengthen her relations with Russia against Turkey if the latter again disturbs the peace of the frontier in the way she did last year.

But if Persia neglect to maintain order amongst her own tribal subjects after Turkey has fulfilled her duty in that respect, there would be reason to fear that, as far as the Province of Azerbaijan is concerned, a state of anarchy would take place, and that the Government of the Shah would find it difficult to resist the overtures of Russia, who is so close to her frontiers, and becomes a nearer neighbour every day.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Tabreez, August 10, 1881.

No. 87.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 733. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 25, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE had some conversations with M. Onou, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, upon the Armenian question, and we are generally agreed as to the desirability, in the first place, of inducing the Porte to send some personage of station and authority to the province as

a provisional High Commissioner; and, secondly, of obtaining the immediate removal of those Valis and Mutessarifs whose misconduct or incapacity may be considered to have occasioned the present unsatisfactory condition of affairs.

M. Onou has more than once intimated, both to me and to the Porte, that if this were done, and if the Porte thus anticipated the requirements of the Powers, the Armenian question might be prevented from gathering to a head. This advice is undoubtedly sound as far as it goes; but the attitude of the Russian Representative is not as yet sufficiently pronounced to enable me to judge whether or no it may not merely indicate a design to patch up matters for the present by pressing the Turks to do what is necessary to tide over the existing crisis and satisfy European opinion, while allowing the seeds of deterioration and ultimate dissolution to remain uneradicated in Armenia.

Be that as it may, M. Onou told me the day before yesterday, Tuesday, that he had seen Said Pasha on Monday evening (not knowing that I had just left his Highness), and that he had spoken to him about the appointment of a High Commissioner, that he was surprised to find that he was pushing against an open door; and that the Prime Minister had cut short the representations upon which he was entering, by asking him whom among the eminent men of Turkey he would recommend the Porte to nominate. M. Onou replied that he would wish to have a little time to consider.

Upon this I told M. Onou that I had been pleading the same cause, and that I had mentioned Moukhtar Pasha. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires remarked in reply that Moukhtar Pasha was the very man whose nomination he would himself be inclined to press.

So far, therefore, as the action of the Porte is concerned, it may be fairly concluded that no great difficulty would arise in getting your Lordship's suggestions complied with. Unfortunately, the Porte is a mere *nominis umbra*, and it is impossible to describe the confusion into which public affairs are thrown by the extraordinary manner in which the Sultan has arrogated to himself the initiative in the transaction of all public business. Although His Majesty appears to be a man of undoubted intelligence and of considerable industry he is devoid of experience, of instruction, and of all knowledge of what is passing in the outer world. The personal Government he affects becomes, under such circumstances, a childish farce.

The burden of Empire is infinitely too weighty for such slender shoulders, especially when it is remembered that his attention is constantly absorbed by the petty intrigues of the Palace, and distracted by anxieties in regard to plots and conspiracies against his life, which are manufactured by the adventurers around him, who, for their own purposes, practise upon his morbid timidity. To such an extent are his recognized advisers secluded from the knowledge of what is going on, that they frequently inquire from the foreign Dragomans for news.

In the meantime business is at a standstill: Mazbata after Mazbata is transmitted by the Porte to the Palace, conveying the decisions of the Council of Ministers upon various pressing topics, such as the Montenegrin question and others, all of which are left unanswered for weeks or months, the eventual decision of the Sovereign remaining buried in his bosom, and being ultimately influenced by the interested or capricious opinion of whichever of his favourites happens to be in the enjoyment of a transient ascendency; while a parcel of astrologers, Imdjis, *soi-disant* holy men, and green-turbaned Sheikhs excite his fanaticism and inflate his pride by expanding to monstrous proportions his claims as Caliph of Islam to a spiritual supremacy over the entire Mahommedan world.

Your Lordship will thus perceive that Representatives of foreign Powers transact business under great disadvantages. They are called upon to treat with Ministers who have no authority to negotiate, whose chief preoccupation is to retain their own slippery hold of power by advocating whatever is agreeable to their master, and who dare not even convey to him the arguments by which an opposite view may be supported, lest by so doing they should become distasteful to him. Hence it follows that to arrive at a settlement with the Porte in regard to matters other than those of the simplest routine means very little after all, and can scarcely be regarded as more than a short step in the desired direction.

On the other hand, to treat with the Sultan himself is difficult and disadvantageous. Though it may be possible to gain his confidence and favour by a conciliatory demeanour his nature is so suspicious, and he is so impatient of contradiction, that sooner or later a collision is sure to ensue, which would be rendered more inconvenient and irritating in its consequences, in proportion to the closeness of the intimacy to which the Ambassador may have been admitted.

The result of the foregoing régime upon the social life of the capital is remarkable, and has been accentuated by the action of the Sultan in the recent State trial. People

live in an atmosphere of abject terror and mutual suspicion. It is known that the Imperial spies are everywhere; and the intercourse of the eminent Turks even with one another has become awkward and restrained, while the visits of foreigners with whom once they may have had the most cordial relations are shunned and deprecated. To such an extent is this the case that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who was for many years a Dragoman here, and is consequently intimate with a great number of people, tells me he has ceased to visit anyone, so panic-stricken seem his friends whenever he appears amongst them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 88.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

E
(No. 735. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 27, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 723 of the 23rd instant, recording my recent discussion of the Armenian question with Said Pasha, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that within a couple of hours after the above document was mailed the Secretary of the Armenian Patriarch, and shortly afterwards the Patriarch himself, called upon me.

When I first arrived at Constantinople I found the pretensions of his Beatitude more ambitious than, I feared, the circumstances of the case, or even the justice of his cause, warranted, and for some time past I have endeavoured to make him and his co-religionists understand the wisdom of abating something of their original aspirations, as being incapable of realization, and only calculated to excite the jealousy and animosity of the Sultan and of the Turkish Government, and to throw unnecessary difficulties in the way of a settlement.

Of late a sensible change has been perceptible in the tone both of the Patriarch himself and of the other Armenians with whom I have conversed, and when the Secretary of the Archbishop called upon me for the purpose, as he said, of communicating an abstract of the views of his community, I found his language and propositions so reasonable that I thought it advisable, as he understands English, to read to him the portion of my despatch to your Lordship in which I have summarized my general view of the kind of settlement we should endeavour to obtain.

Your Lordship will of course understand that in stating the Armenian case to Said Pasha I had endeavoured to put it in a form as little obnoxious as possible to Ottoman sentiment, and I was curious to learn whether its exposition in such a shape would occasion disappointment to M. Minasse Tchéraz. Somewhat to my surprise, after I had concluded the reading of the paper, the Patriarch's Secretary assured me that the views I had indicated accurately represented the utmost wishes and expectations of the Armenian people. "It is true," he said, "there is a party amongst us, composed of extravagant and light-headed people, who talk of autonomy and of special civil privileges to be granted to the Armenian rite, but we now understand that these are dreams, and the Patriarch has just sent to Van, which is the hot-bed of such extreme passions, a Bishop of known prudence, whose duty it will be to inculcate sober counsels and moderate the expectations of our friends."

I have thought it advisable to acquaint your Lordship with this conversation, as I have been a little afraid lest the programme of reform I had submitted to your consideration should fall short of that for which you might desire me to contend.

Yesterday Munir Bey was sent to me by the Sultan with a message relative to a transient matter. I took the opportunity of repeating to him my conversation with Said Pasha, with the request that he would transmit its substance to His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 89.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 739.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 28, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Major Trotter, reporting his intention to take a journey in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, August 13, 1881.*

I BEG to inform you that I purpose proceeding to Narriman, and from thence, viâ Thortum, to the valley of the Tchooruk-Su.

As I shall be in communication with Erzeroum until I leave the district of Thortum, I will await there your instructions, and shall be greaty obliged if you will forward them to me by telegraph on receipt of this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 90.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 740.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 28, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral reporting a case of robbery and murder near Sivri-Hissar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Angora, August 20, 1881.*

I BEG to inform your Excellency that cases of robbery and murder are fortunately of rare occurrence in this province, but a particularly atrocious one has just been reported to me.

The town and district of Sivri-Hissar forms part of this sandjak, being 28 hours, or 84 miles, distant. Four Kurdish sheep farmers left that district two months ago for Constantinople, with several large flocks of sheep and goats, with the intention of selling them in the capital for butcher's meat, and their return with the proceeds of that sale, amounting to 4,000 Turkish liras, being communicated to the brigands, was the object of the attack made upon them. That attack took place on the 5th August in a narrow rocky gorge 4 hours, or 12 miles, distant from Sivri-Hissar, on the Angora road. The robbers, twelve in number, were in ambush behind the rocks, and as the party passed, fired upon them. The aim was deadly, and the Kurds all fell dead or mortally wounded, the only one who escaped being their servant, who fled, and has reported the occurrence. The brigands got clear off with the money and the horses and effects of the murdered men. I am informed that they wore the uniform of the Turkish army, and are therefore supposed to be disbanded soldiers, but the Sivri-Hissar authorities assert that they were Circassian refugees, who had chosen that disguise.

On the information given me as to the existence of this band, I thought it my duty, on the 28th July last, to urge the Governor-General to take measures for their capture. Instructions were accordingly sent to the Sivri-Hissar authorities, who replied stating that a "zaptieh" patrol had been sent over the roads, and reported them all safe. The

information I had given was accordingly stated to be unfounded. The outrage now reported took place two days after the date of said report.

Up to date the robbers are still at large, no arrests having been made, although the Sivri-Hissar authorities profess to have organized an active search. My local correspondent asserts that without the connivance of the authorities the outrage could never have been committed, and that they know very well where to find the perpetrators if they choose. This is very likely to be true, but there are of course no means of ascertaining how far it is accurate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 91.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 742.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 28, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 210 of the 17th March last, copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti, forwarding a petition from the Kroomlees, begging to be assimilated to other Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 45.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, August 13, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of the 8th March last, I have the honour to inclose a fresh petition which was handed to myself, as well as to all my colleagues, by the Kroomlees.

They therein state that though they are now recognized as Christians by the Government, their former Mussulman names not having been erased from the old registers, they are enrolled as Mussulmans and treated as such when serving in the army; and that this circumstance has compelled many, and will compel the whole of them, to emigrate. They, therefore, beg to be assimilated to, and be treated in every respect like other Christians.

Unless the rule now adopted by the Porte, that the descendants of converts to Christianity are not exempt at any time from the military service, be repealed, the only point to be taken into consideration in the case of the Kroomlees would be their being compelled to follow the tenets of Mahomet while they are under the standard.

However, as in the general census which since two months takes place in this province, the Kroomlees are registered only under their Christian name, no pretext is left for their not being henceforth treated as Christians.

I must state that few Kroomlees are actually enrolled. An inquiry which the Greek Patriarch caused to be made two years since brought to light the fact that though eight appeared as serving, only one was found under the standard. The others had escaped to Russia.

It is generally believed that if they are not henceforth treated on the same footing as other Christians, the Kroomlees will make up their mind to emigrate *en masse* to Russia.

I understand from the Greek Archbishop that there is still from 400 to 500 families which, though publicly professing Mahommedanism, would no doubt openly declare themselves to be, as they are, Christians, if the difficulties under which labour the Kroomlees were settled in their favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

Petition.

M. le Consul, *Trébizonde, le 9 Juillet*, 1881.

NOUS soussignés, Chrétiens Orthodoxes, habitants de Kram et de Matchka, avons l'honneur de vous informer que depuis de longues années par crainte de poursuites de la part des autorités nous conservions notre foi en secret et passions au dehors pour Musulmans.

Nous avions nos registres à nous, ou nous étions inscrits dans les registres de la commune sous des noms Musulmans et étions censés suivre le rite de cette religion.

Quant aux devoirs religieux—mariages, messes, baptêmes, &c.—nous les remplissions en profond secret pendant la nuit d'après le rite Chrétien Orthodoxe. Cela continua jusqu'à un Iradé Impérial issu il y a vingt-trois ans ordonnant de mettre fin à cet état anormal des choses.

A la suite de cet ordre un Envoyé de la Sublime Porte s'est rendu sur les lieux et après nous avoir tous interrogés et pris notre véritable culte, nous a inscrit dans les registres de la commune sous nos véritables noms. Avec tout cela nos noms Musulmans n'ont pas été rayés, de sorte qu'on nous attribue actuellement deux noms, dont l'un Chrétien et l'autre Musulman et deux religions. Cependant, tous nos enfants nés depuis on ayant un an à l'époque de l'Iradé, ont continué malgré l'ordre du Sultan à être couchés dans les registres sous des noms Musulmans, outre leurs noms Chrétiens, acceptés aussi par les autorités en vertu de l'Iradé susmentionné.

Quoique nous pouvons maintenant célébrer notre culte ouvertement et aux yeux de tout le monde (nous n'éprouvons que de la reconnaissance envers Sa Majesté le Sultan pour ce bienfait dont il a bien voulu nous combler); mais loin de se conformer sous les autres rapports à l'ordre Impérial, on nous prend nos enfants pour le service militaire. Nous sommes loin de renier la justice d'une pareille mesure si elle était générale; nous n'avons jamais fait opposition aux autorités pour ce qui est de nos véritables obligations envers le Gouvernement Ottoman. Tout ce qui est ordonné à toute la masse de Chrétiens nous aussi nous nous considérons en devoir de nous y conformer; c'est l'injustice d'une pareille mesure contraire à un Iradé émané du Sultan et à la loi de notre pays elle-même; c'est la persistance des employés, qui veulent à tout prix nous considérer comme Musulmans, qui nous afflige; ce sont les souffrances qu'éprouvent les nôtres, qui, étant pris pour le service militaire, se voient tout à coup jetés dans un milieu Musulman obligés de remplir les rites de l'Islam, et poursuivis s'ils ne s'y conforment pas, qui nous révoltent; cela force beaucoup d'entre nous de déserter après avoir été enrôlés par force dans le service militaire et nous forcer à émigrer en masse, ce qui est une ruine pour nous et une perte pour notre Gouvernement.

En conséquence, ce que nous demandons ce n'est que d'être traités à l'égal des autres Chrétiens, de ne pas être fictivement considérés comme Musulmans; car le nom de Tenessour de l'Arabe signifiant rénégat, dont on nous décore est aussi peu mérité par nous que par tous les autres Chrétiens demeurant dans les domaines de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Nous ne demandons qu'à être assimilés aux autres Chrétiens, de posséder les mêmes privilèges, et de porter les mêmes obligations.

Ayant déjà écrit à plusieurs reprises à vos prédécesseurs, aux Ambassades et aux Patriarcats, tout cela sans suite, il ne nous reste plus d'espoir, M. le Consul, que dans votre indulgente protection.

En vous priant d'intercéder en notre faveur auprès des autorités et d'informer votre Ambassade à Constantinople, et dans la ferme espérance que grâce à votre puissant appui il nous sera fait prompte justice, nous vous prions de vouloir bien agréer, &c.

No. 92.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 745.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 29, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow, in which he describes the return to Sinope of a large number of Armenian families who had recently emigrated to Soukoum Kaleh, and the refusal of the Governor in the first instance to allow them to land. In the latter of these two despatches Colonel Warlow states that the emigrants had been allowed to disembark, on condition of their remaining in the buildings which had been assigned to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Sinope, August* 25, 1881.

ON the 22nd instant I sent you the following telegram in Cypher N :—

"1,500 Armenian villagers emigrated from this neighbourhood to Russia last spring; 150 who returned recently have been ordered to leave, and 25 families just arrived have been prevented from disembarking in consequence of strict orders from Constantinople. Can you obtain permission for these people to remain? Lieutenant-Governor (Mutessarif) in favour of this recommendation."

I have now the honour to report the circumstances in detail.

2. Some 10 miles south of Sinope was an Armenian community, whose members, being nearly all landowners and good farmers, were in a very thriving condition until after the last Russian war, when a number of Abbassye refugees were drafted to their neighbourhood; the new comers took, as usual, to plundering and cattle-lifting, and the Armenians, finding that neither protection nor redress could be obtained, finally resolved on emigrating *en masse* to Soukoum Kaleh. One of their leading men, who had been sent to reconnoitre, having returned with glowing accounts of the country and of the welcome which they would receive, the whole Armenian population (1,500 souls), with the exception of a few families, took their departure last spring, very much against the wish of the Lieutenant-Governor, who did his utmost to dissuade them from their enterprise.

3. On arrival at Soukoum Kaleh some forest land in the interior was allotted to them, which by no means came up to their expectations, and after a short time those who had little or no capital found that they had made a mistake, and decided on returning; the first batch of 150 people arrived about six weeks ago, quite unexpectedly, and, landing on the open coast, went straight to their old quarters. As soon as their arrival became known to the Lieutenant-Governor he reported it to the Porte, and in reply received orders to collect all the returned wanderers and ship them off again to Soukoum Kaleh. Finding some difficulty in carrying out these orders, and moved by the entreaties of the Armenians, he consented to their remaining until the result was known of an appeal which was being made to the Porte through the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople.

4. Just after my arrival here another ship-load of returning emigrants (83), the majority being women and young children, came in, and, in accordance with stringent orders received from Constantinople, they were not allowed to land; these unfortunate people had been at sea for about a month, packed so closely that I could, literally, scarcely find standing room on deck when I went to see them. The Lieutenant-Governor, to whom I appealed, declared that, sorry as he was for their miserable condition, he dared not disobey his orders. I then sent my telegram to your Lordship, and also one to the Acting Governor of the Province, urging him to permit disembarkation, there being danger of an outbreak of typhus fever on board the crowded vessel. In consequence, probably, of my appeal, he telegraphed yesterday to the Lieutenant-Governor that the people might be allowed to land if the Priest, who has been sent here by the Armenian community of Kastamuni, would pledge himself to charter a ship and send the whole party back whence they came in eleven days. This he declined to do as he has no funds, and the people themselves positively refuse to return, and so the matter stands at present.

I have, however, prevailed on the Lieutenant-Governor to remove to hospital five women and children who were ill, with three others to look after them, and have supplied nourishing food and medecine to the sick and weakly.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor asserts that he warned the people that if they left they would not be allowed to return, but this they deny; personally he is most anxious that all the emigrants should come back, and states that there need be no difficulty about it, as, although some sold their land, there is quite enough left to keep them, and that, if necessary, he could allot them plenty of good waste land.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Sinope, August* 25, 1881.

SINCE writing my despatch No. 14 of this date, I have heard that the Lieutenant-Governor has given permission for the disembarkation of the Armenian emigrants, a Turkish gentleman having given security that they will not leave the quarters which have been assigned to them in the Arsenal buildings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 93.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 747.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 29, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Bennet on the subject of the condition of the district of Kaisarieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Vice-Consul Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Sivas, August* 11, 1881.

AFTER leaving Hadjin on the 27th ultimo, I continued my journey to Kaisarieh viâ Fékè to Farash, a by route through a very mountainous country for three days. All this portion of the Taurus is rich in mineral wealth; the existence of silver, lead-streaks, copper, iron, and coal being well known. Very little is now being done in the mining way, a little iron smelting at Karsanti and Bagtchejik is all I heard of.

As you approach the northern limits of the mountains, the slopes, from being wooded, become bare, and numerous rills and pasturage render the district suitable for the summer retreat from the Tchukur Ova of the Sirkinti Turkmen from near Sis. I came across several agricultural Greek villages a day from Fékè in a north-westerly direction, the inhabitants speaking in some cases a kind of Greek. Farash, on the banks of the Samanti Su, in a deep gorge was, before the war, in a comparatively speaking thriving state; the inhabitants all Greeks (300 families) depending almost entirely on iron smelting for a livelihood. Since the war the rough ingots which they were able to produce after much labour by an extravagant and primitive method of working, have been driven out of the market, and there is now no demand for home iron at such a price as would make it profitable, and the trade has ceased. The result is that the Farashlis are in a very bad way; about one-third have disappeared, and those that are left are miserably poor and ignorant. The land in the neighbourhood is insufficient for their support, and they are heavily in debt to the Government and merchants.

I understand that there is land about two hours off suitable for cultivation, and if the Farashlis can come to some arrangement with the Ashurets of the Tchukur Ova, they may be able to better their condition on the somewhat unsatisfactory terms of going halves in the crops with the Turkmen, the latter supplying cattle to plough with and seed.

From Farash I made my way to Kaisarieh viâ Everek. The harvest generally is everywhere above the average, but as the Government are going to collect the tithes in Kaisarieh *aut cazas*, it is little likely that it will derive any benefit from this. The system for a fixed tax in lieu of the tithe for the home caza is still in operation, but the Government are doing their best to break it down by not collecting the money when they could get it after harvest. Everyone speaks well of the system except the Aghas, but such is the improvidence of the natives of this country that unless they are looked after, and taxes collected when there is a chance of obtaining them, the money will not be forthcoming; about one-quarter of the amount due last year is still outstanding.

At Kaisarieh, where I only remained three days, I could hear of nothing of an encouraging or hopeful nature, much that was the reverse. Since I left the city last

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November, there has been a complete change of officials. The Mutessarif, Veysi Pasha, was killed two or three months ago by a roof falling on him, and the new Mutessarif, Reshid Pasha, had just arrived. The Kadi, President of the Commercial, President of the Criminal Courts, Secretary, Muhassebeji (Financial official), are all new, and a new Mudaiomoumi was daily expected. The road eventually intended to reach the sea coast viâ Nigdeh and the Kulek Boghaz has been pushed out on the plain for a distance of about 5 miles from the city, an utterly useless work, of course, as there was never any difficulty here.

The kitri (gum) harvest has been much damaged by rain, and there is little demand; prices of wool, opium, yellow-berries, and kitri are all low. There are any amount of artizans out of work, and the distress is very great; skilled labour can be had for 4 or 5 piastres a-day, where last year it fetched 10 to 12 piastres, and I heard of cases where men were working for 60 parns a-day. Flour is dear; meat cheap.

The American missionaries are in trouble about a school building and dwelling-house they wished to erect at Talas. After buying a plot of land and getting in the foundation, with stones all cut and everything ready to complete the work before the winter, they are stopped by the obstructiveness of Veysi Pasha, and have been unable to gain permission even to proceed with the dwelling-house. The matter has been referred to Stamboul, and meanwhile valuable time has been lost. They will be put to much inconvenience and expense, and I believe the Government have no right to prevent the dwelling-house being built, and leave should be easily got for the school. Mr. Gatherd has done all he can for them at Angora without effect, and there seems to be no one at Stamboul to look after American interests; it is intolerable that hindrances should be thrown in the way of the laudable efforts of the American missionaries to introduce education into the country.

There is a proposal to build new Government offices, at a cost of £T. 2,000, but there is no money available for the purpose. There is in store a quantity of "esrar" (Indian hemp), which the Government seized last year from the surrounding villages as contraband, with orders to burn it; this was not carried out, and the Mutessarif proposes now to sell it, and build the Government offices out of the proceeds. In a country so full of malpractices, there might be little objection to this, if there was any chance of the money thus acquired being really devoted to the purpose assigned; but it would doubtless evaporate, and there would be nothing to show. This same "esrar" I see cultivated a good deal on the confines both of the Kaisarieh and Azizieh districts; it commands a ready sale in Egypt, and is a profitable business. I understand that the officials now connive at its cultivation. The effects of the drug are somewhat similar to those of opium, but I believe it is more noxious.

I find no improvement in the state of public safety; apprehension is everywhere apparent; and although there are no very serious cases to chronicle, there is the same general feeling of insecurity which does so much harm to the country.

From Kaisarieh I reached Sivas, in five days, by way of Azizieh and the Uzum Yaila. Large numbers of refugees from Ardoghan and Kars are being settled in this district, and are now building houses. So far, there have been no disturbances, but I anticipate some local squabbles when the new comers commence cultivating land, both the Ayshars and Circassians showing anxiety as to their grass lands. At present there are no troops at Azizieh; I think there ought to be a squadron of cavalry there.

Your Lordship is doubtless aware that the Government intends collecting the "Emlakh" (house and property tax) twice over this year; a forced loan to meet the expenses connected with the Greek question, to be repaid in six years, one-sixth each year. Attempts to collect it have so far met with indifferent success, and I heard yesterday that several Armenians of this town had been put in prison for not paying; being Ramazan, Moslems escape the degredation for the moment.

I arrived at Sivas on the 9th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 94.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 748.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, August 29, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 727 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Mr. Consul Biliotti on the subject of the recall of Sirri Pasha, Vali of Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 94.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, August 15, 1881.*

I HAVE just had the honour to wire to your Lordship as follows:—

"Sirri Pasha is dismissed from his post without real cause of complaint. I believe, for motives explained in to-day's despatch, that his recall at this moment may have detrimental consequences for the populations of this province."

He is to wait here for the arrival of his successor, whose name is not mentioned in the telegram transmitted to him by the Porte.

Sirri Pasha being in great favour with the population at large, his recall has produced great consternation in this province among Mussulmans and Christians. The former may send petitions on his behalf to the Porte, but I know from the Greek and Armenian Archbishops that they will do so in all cases. As the Porte has not had the slightest reproach to address to Sirri Pasha, it is presumed that the Laz Chiefs, with whom he has not been on good terms of late, and who command influence at Constantinople, have caused his being dismissed from the post of Governor-General.

A short time since, Tsoorooksooli Ali Pasha's anger was roused for his having arrested Lazes, claimed as murderers by the Russian authorities, and who, according to a Convention between the two Governments, were to be extradited. They were not, however, given up by Sirri Pasha, who sent them for trial to Constantinople, in consequence of subsequent orders received from the Porte. He has had, besides, to act with severity towards Lazes who perpetrated depredations and murders, and this also excited the ire of their Beys towards him.

They sent petitions and delegates to Constantinople, complaining of Sirri Pasha not affording them protection and assistance, and threatening to return to Russia if he were not superseded.

Tsoorooksooli Ali Pasha is now himself at Constantinople, as well as a certain Emin Effendi, the Commissioner for the immigration, a native of Trebizond, who is very hostile to Sirri Pasha, and whose continued absence would be a benefit for this town. Rushdi Pasha and his party, as well as the few other personal foes of Sirri Pasha, are also at work against him.

It would seem that the Porte, fearing demonstrations on the part of the Lazes, who number at least, 37,000, has yielded to their request without inquiring whether it was grounded.

The substitution of a Pasha by another may generally be of little consequence, but it is not so in the present instance.

In my humble opinion, Sirri Pasha is one of the best Governors-General in Turkey. He is honest, indefatigable in the performance of his duties, and full of the best intentions, and at the same time endowed with that activity and energy which are required to carry them out, but he finds nowhere support.

I have fully explained in my despatch No. 61 of the 27th December last, the difficulties under which labours a Vali of Trebizond. If they are the same everywhere, nowhere, at all events, are intrigues pushed so far.

Sirri Pasha, being here since twenty-eight months, has had time to thoroughly understand the character and habits of the populations, and is acquainted with the wants of the province which he administers. He has shown to the few intriguing scoundrels who disturb public peace, that he has sufficient character to cope with them. And it is just now, when he may make use of the experience which he has acquired, and to obtain

which, as much valuable time must be wasted by another Vali, that he is recalled without there being real cause of complaint against him.

Your Lordship may judge from my Reports on the disorders which have taken place in this vilayet since the arrival of the Lazes, how far their accusations against Sirri Pasha are grounded. It is likely that the decision taken by the Porte, with a view to prevent demonstrations on the part of the Lazes, will attain this end for a short time; but in the long run it will, undoubtedly, bring about great trouble in the vilayet.

On the one hand, they will be encouraged to consider, by the easy victory obtained, the Governors-General as bound to act in conformity with their wishes, under the penalty of dismissal, and if they succeeded to obtain the recall of one Pasha, there is no motive why they should not arrive at the same end with others. At all events, such will be their impression, and this will be sufficient to reduce to nothing in their eyes the authority of the Valis who may succeed Sirri Pasha.

On the other hand, the new Governor-General, even granting that he may possess all the qualifications of his predecessor, having before him the example of Sirri Pasha's fate, will not dare to display against the Lazes the same energy and severity, and the unfortunate natives of this vilayet will be left at the mercy of an unruly and imposing number of immigrants, who will be the real masters of the country. I am far from saying that all the Lazes are miscreants, but the power which will pass in the hands of their race will, no doubt, work a change for the worse in many of them, who otherwise might have been very quiet inhabitants of the country in which they immigrated.

It must also be reckoned that the number of natives who may side with the Lazes will daily increase.

Furthermore, there is not the slightest doubt that the Courts of Justice, which are far from being what they should be, will be as much influenced as the Governor-General by this state of things.

Under these circumstances, the intolerable position in which the native populations will be placed is so easy to understand, and the inevitable ruin of the country is so evident, that comments on my part are quite superfluous.

I therefore most respectfully beg leave to point out that even should the Porte have motives concerning the Lazes, unknown to the public, for dismissing Sirri Pasha from his post, the expediency of giving them so easy a victory over a Governor-General may be contested. His recall, if absolutely necessary on their account, may be postponed for one or two months, with great advantage for the future security of the inhabitants of this province. But should the decision taken by the Porte with respect to Sirri Posha be rendered indispensable by other motives, their being made known to the public would entirely dissipate the baneful impression which is produced in this vilayet by his presumed dismissal on account of complaints from the Lazes.

As I am about to close my despatch, I hear the rumour that a certain Osman Pasha is appointed as Governor-General of this vilayet. This functionary, who is a Laz, being Mutessarif at Batoum when that place was handed over to the Russians, was transferred to Rizeh, and about two years since was dismissed from his post on Sirri Pasha having complained to the Porte of his slackness in the performance of his duties. He has remained since without employment, though it is said that he was offered other posts of Mutessarif which he refused to accept, and is considered here as quite unfit to fill up the post of Vali.

In all cases, the appointment of a Laz as Governor-General at Trebizond at a moment when his countrymen are disturbing the public peace and their Chiefs are striving to take the upper hand in the country, appears to me so unlikely that I do not put much faith in the rumour.

Unless the Porte has for object to allow the Laz immigrants to have their own way in this vilayet, Sirri Pasha's dismissal is nothing compared to the appointment of Osman Pasha.

It is my humble opinion that a Laz Governor-General, with a numerous Laz population in the vilayet of Trebizond, would soon furnish Russia with more than plausible pretext for annexation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 94.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 22, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that, in consequence of fresh orders from the Porte, Sirri Pasha handed over, on the 16th, to Yussuf Pasha, the Commissioner for the reforms at Trebizond, the direction of affairs in this vilayet, and proceeds to-day to Constantinople.

Mussulmans, as well as Greeks and Armenians, telegraphed to the Porte on behalf of Sirri Pasha.

My French colleague, who had also wired to his Embassy on the 16th, received, on the 20th, an answer to the effect that in spite of Said Pasha's good intentions the recall of Sirri Pasha was inevitable.

He leaves here regretted by the whole population, except the few individuals who are connected with those who caused his dismissal.

On last Thursday night, the family of Emin Effendi, of whom I spoke in my preceding despatch, and a certain Ali Pasha Kavzogloo, who was dismissed from the post of Mutessarif at Gumushané, as reported in my despatch No. 64 of the 27th December last, illuminated their houses and fired rockets as a sign of cheerfulness at the dismissal of the Governor-General. The demonstration was to be renewed on the following evening, but was prevented by Yussuf Pasha.

Taking into consideration the state of things in this province, the manner in which Sirri Pasha was dismissed (and of which the demonstration just spoken was the consequence), is not likely to strengthen the authority of the Valis at Trebizond. On the contrary, it will, no doubt, embolden the few intriguers who trouble the public peace to play the same game with his successors.

Be this as it may, it is by no means calculated to encourage Turkish functionaries, nor to inspire confidence in the public, for it was known to everyone here that Sirri Pasha was conscientiously and efficaciously performing his duties, and the motive of his dismissal being unknown, it appears to be the consequence of his having so done. If Sirri Pasha is accused, he should be tried as he caused Rushdi Pasha to be tried, and the example would be very wholesome; but in all cases, I believe, for the motives explained in my preceding despatch, that the cause of his dismissal cannot be kept a secret without somewhat endangering the public security in this vilayet.

I intend, and so do all my colleagues without exception, to accompany Sirri Pasha on board, as a mark of our regard for him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—Yussuf Pasha is only Acting Governor-General, and having already been Governor-General of this vilayet, wants by no means to accept the post, if offered to him.

A. B.

No. 95.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 753. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 29, 1881.

I HAVE already informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 702 of the 18th instant, upon what I consider fair authority, that the proposal of a German company for the construction of a railway from Constantinople to Bagdad, has been under the consideration of the Turkish Government.

It has also been very strongly rumoured that the German Embassy had been pressing the claims of the proposed Company on the Porte. I have now ascertained for certain that this has not been the case, the German Chargé d'Affaires having told me, in a way to leave no doubt on my mind as to the truth of the statement, that he has had no concern whatever in any such matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 96.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 757.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 30, 1881.*

YESTERDAY, in Conference, I addressed my colleagues for the first time on the Armenian question. I stated that on leaving England I had been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to give my most earnest attention to this important subject, and to obtain their co-operation in inducing the Porte to fulfil the obligations it had contracted in regard to Armenia under the Berlin Treaty. I told them that I had refrained from mooting the subject until now, in the first place, because, previously to doing so, I wished to acquaint myself fully with the elements of the problem, and to feel my way a little both with the Sultan and with the Porte. I thought, moreover, that I should be best consulting their wishes by refraining from opening so complicated a subject while the Greek and Montenegrin questions still remained unsettled. The inaccessibility of the Turks during the month of Ramazan was also an additional reason for delay. Now, however, these impediments were wholly or in part removed, and it was my duty no longer to postpone compliance with your Lordship's peremptory instructions.

I then gave a short account of the individual steps I had already taken in furtherance of the object in view, and of my various conversations with the Sultan, the Prime Minister, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as already reported to your Lordship in my previous correspondence. I added that at our next meeting I should propose the framing of a collective note calling the attention of the Porte to the fact that we had received no direct reply to the previous collective note of the Ambassadors of the 7th September last, although, perhaps, in doing so, it might be necessary to notice the reference of the Ottoman Government to the Armenian question in the Porte's note of the 3rd October, which, though not a reply to that of the Ambassadors, was received subsequently to its despatch.

I observed that it was probable we would be met by the usual pleas for delay, on the ground that time for further consideration and inquiry was required. In this event, we should insist, I thought, upon the immediate appointment of a provisional High Commissioner, with full powers to dismiss Governors, reform abuses, and administer the country in such a way as to put a stop at once to the prevailing anarchy; and I intimated that the nomination of some such person as Moukhtar Pasha would probably meet the needs of the case. We ought also to require the immediate removal from their posts of the more notoriously incompetent Valis and Mutessarifs.

In support of these views, I promised to furnish my colleagues with a summary of the cruelties, crimes, robberies, and murders which had been committed in the various towns and villages of Armenia within the last two years, and with well-authenticated instances of the corruption, cruelty, and incompetence of various individual Turkish authorities, whose dismissal I trusted they would join with me in pressing. I should also propose to communicate to them a short sketch of the principal practical reforms which I thought might be urged with advantage upon the Porte, and which had been drawn up for me by Sir Charles Wilson and Major Trotter, the two men best acquainted with the needs of the province, and with the sufferings and wishes of its inhabitants. It was to be understood, however, that the paper in question would be submitted merely as a convenient basis and starting-point for discussion, and not as a scheme of Government, ready cut and dry, to which I desired to stand committed.

The foregoing observations were received with great kindness and courtesy by the Representatives present, who promised at once to direct their attention to the consideration of the matters referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 97.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 758. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 29, 1881.*

WITH reference to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 561 of the 8th instant, that I should call the attention unofficially of my Russian colleague to

the hardships entailed upon the inhabitants on the Turkish side of the frontier by the refusal of the Russian authorities to allow them to cut wood in the forest of Soghanli, I have the honour to state that M. Onou, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, has promised to do everything in his power to get the necessary indulgence granted to the persons concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 98.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 759.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 30, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Mutessarif of Bayazid has been dismissed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 99.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 760. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 30, 1881.*

I HAVE had the satisfaction of informing your Lordship this morning that the Mutessarif of Bayazid has been dismissed.

I have now the honour of inclosing copy of Sir A. Sandison's Confidential Report of this announcement, as made to him by the Prime Minister, as well as of another, in regard to the probable dismissal of the Procureur-General of Sivas, and of the Valis of Diarbekir, Erzeroum, and Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

I AM glad to be able to inform your Excellency, on the Prime Minister's authority, that the Mutessarif of Bayazid has been dismissed and ordered to proceed to Erzeroum.

His Highness has at the same time spoken to Djevdid Pasha, the Minister of Justice, about the Procureur-General of Sivas, in view of his being recalled also.

I have been authorized to add that his Highness is in hopes of being able to deal similarly with the Valis of Diarbekir, Erzeroum, and Sivas.

Therapia, August 29, 1881. (Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 100.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 761. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 30, 1881.*

YESTERDAY evening, after the Conference, I asked the German Chargé d'Affaires if what had fallen from me at our recent meeting was in consonance with his own ideas. He said that he had received no instructions from his Government, or rather, that he had been warned that he was to abstain from taking a leading part in any discussion of the Armenian question which might be inaugurated either by myself or by the Russian Ambassador, as Germany was not immediately interested in the matter. Nevertheless, he was sure that he would be authorized to support any action his colleagues might take, or any scheme of reform they might agree to press upon the Porte.

He then asked me what was the motive underlying England's policy in Asia Minor. It could not be merely humanitarian, because no country was really actuated by impulses of that description. Were we influenced by a fear of Russian encroachments, and did we intend to create an Armenian autonomy as a bulwark against that Power?

I said that he was under a very great mistake if he thought that the interest taken by England in the sufferings of the various populations in Turkey was not prompted by feelings of humanity. English public opinion was keenly sensitive upon such subjects, and our co-operation in the liberation of Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, and Thessaly from Turkish rule had been in a great measure inspired by our sympathy with the sufferings of the populations in those provinces. But, quite apart from these considerations, we were convinced that the best guarantee for the peace of Europe was the reformation of the internal administration of the Ottoman Government.

"But," said M. de Hirschfeld, "you do not mean that the settlement or non-settlement of the Armenian question can endanger the peace of Europe?" To this I replied that the Armenian question of necessity attached itself to the general question of Turkish reorganization. Various circumstances had combined to exacerbate in Armenia the prevailing vices and shortcomings of Turkish government; and the fact of Armenia having been specially mentioned in the Treaty of Berlin had given us a special right to call upon the Turks to commence their reforms in that quarter of the Empire. But it was by no means to Armenia alone that we desired to see these reforms confined. Nor had we any intention of using the Armenian people as a political instrument against Russia or any other Power. We had no reason to believe that Russia was not in complete sympathy with us in undertaking the task which lay before us. And as for autonomy, I had convinced myself that it would be impossible to endow the members of the Armenian community with rights or privileges which were not equally extended to the rest of their provincial fellow-subjects; and that I thought we could not make a graver mistake than to allow such phrases as "autonomy," "Constitution," or the like, to creep into our programme, as they would at once excite the hostility and jealousy of the Porte against whatever plans of reform we might propose. On the contrary, we should represent ourselves as urging administrative rather than Constitutional reforms; otherwise the Sultan would take alarm, and would imagine that we were either bent upon the further dismemberment of his Empire, or on a democratic revolution; whereas we should try to persuade him that by following our advice he would be adopting the course most conducive to the establishment of his authority and the consolidation of his Empire, "which," I added, "after all, can never be assailed, no matter in what quarter or by what Power, without considerable risk to the peace of Europe."

The German Chargé d'Affaires, in thanking me for these explanations, said that he had been relieved by the moderation of my language at the Conference, and especially at finding that I advocated the appointment of a Turk as Governor of Armenia. The Armenians, he said, had been talking of a Christian like Nubar Pasha, but to such an arrangement the Porte would never agree. I said that was also my own impression; but, I added, that in the plan I intended to propose there would be probably found a place for several Christian Mutessarifs, if not for a Christian Vali, and that I thought their claims to such offices should be vindicated wherever the preponderance of the Armenian population gave them fair grounds for such a recognition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 101.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

E
(No. 627.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September 9, 1881.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's several despatches reporting the steps which you have taken to bring before the attention of your colleagues the question of reforms in Armenia.

Her Majesty's Government have learned with satisfaction and entire concurrence the course which you have pursued, and which you have proposed to the Representatives of the other Great Powers, in regard to this difficult and important matter. I notice especially the judicious remarks which you addressed to your German colleague, as reported in your despatch No. 761 of the 30th ultimo, and which coincide entirely with the views of the Government.

As far as the information of which I am possessed enables me to judge, the two principal points to which your endeavours should for the present be directed are—

1. The appointment of a capable and honest administrator as High Commissioner or Governor-General, with extended powers for the reform of abuses and the correction or dismissal of corrupt and incompetent functionaries; and

2. The settlement of a certain fixed sum, or at least of a fixed proportion of the net revenue, as the contribution to be paid to the Imperial Exchequer, the remaining proceeds of taxation being devoted to the local requirements of the districts themselves.

I agree with your Excellency in the opinion that having regard to the mixed character of the population it is not essential that the officer selected for the highest administrative post should be, as a matter of course or by preference, a Christian, though it would be desirable that he should have Christians among his immediate subordinates and advisers.

I shall await with great interest your Excellency's Reports of the further progress of your negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 102.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 11, 3 A.M.)

(No. 362.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 10, 1881, 11·50 P.M.*

ARMENIAN question.

At conference yesterday it was unanimously agreed (subject to reference home of German, French, and Austrian Representatives) that we should take the earliest opportunity of informing the Porte verbally that, while our Governments held as strongly as ever to the demands contained in the identic note of the 7th September of last year, they considered it would tend to alleviate the immediate [group omitted; ? wants] of the people if a high functionary was at once dispatched to the localities in question, with powers sufficient to enable him to put an end to the existing anarchy, to remove corrupt and incompetent officials, and to establish a tolerable Government.

No. 103.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 223.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 31, 1881.*

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 135 of the 19th instant, transmitting to me copy of a despatch which had been addressed from Trebizond to the Earl of Dufferin by Consul Biliotti on the 20th of last July, relative to the emigration of Greeks from the district of Trebizond to Russia, I spoke to M. Coumoundouros on the subject, and I asked him whether the Hellenic Government might not feel disposed to take some steps with a view to divert the stream of emigration of persons of essentially Greek nationality from Turkey to Russia, and to attract that emigration to the shores of their own country. His Excellency replied that the matter had already been brought to his notice, and had received the earnest attention of the Government.

His Excellency informed me that two days ago the Greek Consul at Trebizond had left Athens for his post with special instructions to study the emigration that appears to be going on from Trebizond, and to induce the emigrants of Greek nationality to come to Greece, where measures would be taken to insure them every facility for gaining a livelihood, and where they might count upon being properly looked after.

When I read to M. Coumoundouros an extract from Consul Biliotti's Report, his Excellency appeared gratified, and expressed a wish that Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond might be instructed to render any friendly assistance in his power to the Greek Consul, and to aid him, if possible, in the work he has been instructed to perform by the experience he has acquired through a long official residence in the Pashalic of Trebizond.

I replied that I should not fail to bring his Excellency's wish to your Lordship's knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 104.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 764.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 1, 1881.

THE inclosed able and carefully considered Memorandum of suggestions for reforms in the vilayets inhabited by the Armenians in the eastern districts of Asia Minor was handed to me by Sir Charles Wilson prior to the subsequent Memorandum drawn up conjointly by himself and Major Trotter on the same subject, inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 766.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 24.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 11, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith some suggestions for a Constitution for the provinces inhabited by Armenians.

I have followed, generally, the lines of the Lebanon Constitution, but as the Lebanon corresponds rather to an Anatolian sandjak than to a vilayet, I have introduced some changes to meet the altered requirements of the case.

It is, I think, a question for consideration, on political grounds, whether the country inhabited by Armenians should be divided into four or five large vilayets, or broken up into a number of small provinces corresponding in size to about two of the present sandjaks.

The Armenians will probably prefer the first; the Porte the second. From an administrative point of view, the smaller divisions would be preferable.

The question of naming one of the provinces "Armenia" is almost certain to arise, and to create much discussion and ill-feeling unless it be previously settled in a definite manner by the Powers.

I may add that I have no personal knowledge of the country or people east of the Sivas Vilayet, and that Major Trotter, C.B., would probably be able to supply your Lordship with some additional suggestions specially applicable to Kurdistan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Suggestions for a Constitution for the Provinces inhabited by Armenians.

THE territorial question is the first which requires consideration. Roughly speaking, the Armenian country extends from the Russian frontier to Sivas, and from the Black Sea to the southern slopes of the Taurus. The Porte would undoubtedly resist the erection of this large district into a single province, with special privileges, under a Governor-General with extensive powers.

The existing vilayets are, in some instances, unwieldy; and their boundaries are drawn with little regard to means of communication, commercial interests, police duties, administrative arrangements, and to the areas occupied by the various nationalities and religious communities. The same may be said of the smaller divisions, sandjaks, cazas, and nahiés.

Some redivision is very necessary, and the question arises whether such redivision should be left to the Turkish authorities, who would so arrange the districts as to insure a Moslem preponderance in all; whether it should be carried out under some form of European control; or whether the existing divisions should be recognized, and the Councils-General of the vilayets be empowered, after a census has been taken, to define the boundaries of the sandjaks, cazas, and nahiés.

The following suggestions are based on the supposition that the limits of the vilayets would be sketched out, and pressed upon the Porte by the Powers, and that the territorial

extent of the minor divisions would be left for the consideration of the Councils-General.

A single vilayet is taken as a model. The vilayets and smaller districts should be of manageable size.

2. The Vali (Governor-General) of the vilayet to be appointed by the Porte, with the approval of the Powers, for five or seven years, and to be removable only in case of misconduct proved before a Commission formed *ad hoc* with the cognizance of the Powers.

The Vali to have full executive powers; to be responsible for the maintenance of order and public security in the vilayet; to collect the taxes; to appoint the Mutessarifs (Lieutenant-Governors), subject to the approval of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan; to instal the Judges; to convoke and preside over the Council-General; and to carry out all sentences legally passed by the Tribunals, except those reserved by paragraph 11.

3. A Council-General for the whole vilayet, to consist of twelve (? twenty-four) delegates from the sandjaks. The communities to be represented on the Council according to their number and wealth; each community must, however, be represented by at least one delegate.

The Council-General to be empowered to prepare the budget for the year; to distribute taxation; to control the collection of the revenue and expenditure; to audit the vilayet accounts; and to give advice on all questions submitted to it by the Vali.

The Council-General to be convoked once a-year, in time to frame the annual budget, its session not to extend beyond forty days; the budget to be prepared before any other business is attended to.

The Vali to act as President, with power to appoint an official to act as Vice-President in his absence. No *ex-officio* members to be allowed, whether Government officials or spiritual chiefs.

4. The vilayet to be divided into sandjaks, each sandjak, including the "head-quarter" or "home" sandjak, to be under a Mutessarif (Lieutenant-Governor), nominated by the Vali, and appointed by the Sultan.

The Mutessarif to be selected from that community which is of most importance in the sandjak, whether from its numbers or wealth.

5. The sandjaks to be divided into cazas, each caza to be under a Kaïmakam (Governor), nominated by the Mutessarif, and appointed by the Vali.

The Kaïmakam to be selected from that community which is of most importance in the caza, whether from its numbers or wealth; the Mutessarif to act as Kaïmakam of the "head-quarter" caza of the sandjak.

The cazas to be divided into nahiés, each nahié to be under a Mudir (Administrator), elected freely by the Mukhtars of the cariés, or communes, and appointed by the Mutessarif.

Each carié, or village commune, to be under a Mukhtar (Headman), elected freely by the villagers, and appointed by the Kaïmakam.

In mixed villages, each community to elect a Mukhtar; villages containing twenty houses or under to have only one Mukhtar, elected from the community which has the largest numbers; villages containing ten houses or under to have no Mukhtar. In towns or large villages, fifty houses, at least, to form a "quarter," under a Mukhtar, corresponding to the carié, or village commune.

6. Each caza to have an Administrative Council of from three to six members. Each community to be represented by one member; but if the number of communities exceeds six, only those which are most important are to be represented. The Administrative Council of the "head-quarter" caza of the sandjak to have six members.

The Administrative Council to assist the Kaïmakam in carrying out the decisions of the Council-General and the orders of the Vali, and to discuss all questions relating to the general administration of the caza, the finances, public works, public instruction, agriculture, &c.

The Administrative Council to be in permanent session; the Kaïmakam to preside, with power to appoint an official as Vice-President in his absence.

No *ex-officio* members to be allowed, whether Government officials or spiritual chiefs.

The Mukhtar in each carié (village commune) to be assisted by a Council of Elders, elected by the villagers of the carié.

7. Each community to have a Vekil at the chief town of the vilayet, to watch its special interests. The Vekil to be elected by the Notables of the community.

8. Equality of all before the law, and abolition of feudal privileges. Employment of a fair proportion of Christians in the various branches of the public service.

General orders issued by the Vali, and sentences passed by the Courts, in mixed cases, to be published in the two principal languages of the vilayet.

9. A Court of First Instance to be formed in each sandjak; the Court to consist of a Judge and Vice-Judge appointed by the Vali, and of six members elected by the six most important communities in the sandjak.

A High Court of Justice to be formed at the seat of government of the vilayet; the Court to be composed of six Judges, selected and appointed by the Vali from the six most important communities of the vilayet, and of six members elected by the same communities.

The High Court of Justice to be presided over by a person appointed *ad hoc* by the Vali.

The Vali to have the right of increasing the number of Courts of First Instance in case local necessity should render such increase desirable.

The advisability of establishing movable Courts of Assize, formed on the model of the Courts of First Instance, to be discussed by the Council-General of the vilayet.

An Inspector of Justice to be appointed for each vilayet, with certain defined executive powers as regards the dismissal of corrupt or incapable officials, the clearance of prisons, &c.

The appointments of Public Prosecutor and Assistant Public Prosecutor to be abolished.

10. The village Mukhtars with their Councils of Elders to form Courts of Compromise, without, however, having power to deal with police or criminal matters.

The Mudirs of nahiés to act as magistrates, and decide, without appeal, cases involving sums up to 200 piastres.

Cases involving sums greater than 200 piastres to go before the Courts of First Instance.

Mixed cases, that is, cases between persons belonging to different communities, whatever the value involved, to go before the Courts of First Instance, unless the parties to the suit agree to accept the award of the Mudir.

In principle every case should be tried by the full Court; but when all the parties to a suit belong to the same community, they should have the right of rejecting the Judge if he belongs to a different community. Such Judge, however, is to assist at the trial.

11. Criminal cases to be divided into three categories: police cases ("contraventions"), to be tried by the Mudirs acting as magistrates; misdemeanours ("délits"), to be tried by the Courts of First Instance; and felony ("crimes"), by the High Court of Justice. In the last instance, the sentences are not to be carried into effect without the formalities required in other parts of the Empire.

12. A Commercial Court to be formed in each sandjak. The Court to be composed of a Judge, who must be, or have been, a merchant, appointed by the Vali, and four members elected by the Administrative Councils of the cazas forming the sandjak.

13. The Judges to be appointed by the Vali for terms of five years. The members of the Administrative Councils of the cazas to be elected by the village Mukhtars. The Council-General of the vilayet to be elected by the Administrative Councils of the cazas. The village Mukhtars and Councils of Elders to be elected by the people of the village.

The *personnel* of the Administrative Councils to be renewed one-third every two years; outgoing members to be eligible for re-election.

14. Judges to be responsible for their actions; if, after inquiry, one of them is proved to have prevaricated, or to have committed some action unworthy of his office, he should be suspended, and be liable to punishment for his offence.

15. The sittings of all the Courts of Justice to be open to the public. A report of the proceedings to be prepared by a clerk, appointed *ad hoc*. The clerk to keep a register of all contracts involving the transfer of real estate; such contracts not to be valid unless so registered.

Mustantiks ("Juges d'Instruction") not to be members of the Courts.

16. Inhabitants of the vilayet committing a felony or misdemeanour in another vilayet to be tried in that vilayet, and *vice versâ*. Reciprocity to be established between the vilayets as regards the delivery of criminals, and police agents in pursuit of criminals to be allowed to cross the boundary into adjacent vilayets.

Agents of the Government who have shown negligence or unjustifiable delay in obeying orders to bring criminals before the Courts of Justice to be tried as accomplices, and punished according to law.

The relations with other vilayets to be, in other respects, those which exist at present.

In ordinary times the Vali is to maintain order and execute the laws with the assistance of a mixed police, recruited at the rate of about 7 per 1,000 of the population.

The police to be forbidden to accept any gratification in money or in kind. They should wear a uniform.

In cases of grave necessity, and after having taken the advice of the Council-General, the Vali may ask for the assistance of the regular troops. The officer in command of the troops is to consult with the Vali as regards the measures so be taken, and will act on the responsibility of the Vali.

17. A certain fixed proportion of the revenue of the vilayet (? one-fourth), which is derived from the sheep tax, the tithes, and the emlak verghi, is to be paid into the Imperial Treasury. The remaining portion (? three-fourths) will be allocated by the Council-General when preparing the budget to police, justice, administration, public works, &c. Any balance to be paid into the Imperial Treasury. The proceeds of minor taxes, including the Defter-i-Khané revenue, to be also allocated by the Council-General.

Vacouf revenues to be applied to their proper objects, viz., maintenance of mosques, schools, bridges, fountains, &c.

No fresh havalés to be drawn upon the vilayets, and existing havalés to be payable only out of arrears which have been certified and approved by the Council-General.

An Inspector of Finance, if possible a European, with certain defined powers as regards the summary dismissal of corrupt and incompetent officials.

The Council-General to appoint at once a Committee to examine all questions connected with the arrears of pay and taxes, and havalés already drawn upon the vilayet. The Council-General to be empowered, on the report of such Committee, to cancel arrears of taxes when there is no immediate prospect of payment. Existing havalés and vilayet debts to be payable only out of arrears of taxes approved by the Council-General after all arrears of salaries have been paid up.

Public works and all extraordinary expenditure must be previously submitted to the Porte for approval.

18. As soon as possible a census to be made, by carié, commune, and by community, and a cadastre of cultivated lands. On the completion of this a redivision of the administrative districts to be made by the Council-General with a special view to the grouping of communities and the improvement of means of communication. Care to be taken in grouping communities to avoid anything which would, from the form of the district, create administrative difficulties.

A reassessment of land and house property to be made in each caza by a Commission appointed *ad hoc* in each nahié. The Commission to consist of a land official appointed by the Vali and of four members, one elected by each of the four principal communities of the nahié.

19. In cases in which members of the secular or regular clergy are alone concerned, the questions at issue to be examined by their religious superior, unless such superior decide to send the case before the regular Courts.

20. No ecclesiastical establishment to be allowed to give protection to any layman or member of the clergy whom the police agents are in search of.

21. The rights granted to the Armenians in their Constitution are reserved to them.

22. No money to be provided in the budget for public instruction. Each community to be free to conduct its instruction in its own way, and to create such educational establishments as it may deem necessary.

23. The communities alluded to under that title are: Sunni Turks, Kizilbash Turks, Sunni Kurds, Kizilbash Kurds, Circassians, Avschalars, Gregorian Armenians, Roman Catholic Armenians, Protestant Armenians, Greeks, Nestorians, Chaldeans, Yezidis, and Arabs.

Communities not exceeding 500 in number should not be entitled to a seat on the Administrative Councils of the cazas, or upon any of the Courts of Justice. When, however, a member of such small community has a case before the Court, or is himself tried in a Court of First Instance, a member of the said community is to be added to the Court; when the case is before the High Court of Justice, a member and Judge are to be added.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel*,
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

August 11, 1881.

No. 105.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)

E
(No. 765.)

My Lord *Therapia, September 1, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of the documents which I propose to communicate to my colleagues at our next Conference, viz., (1) a Memorandum, drawn up conjointly by Sir C. Wilson and Major Trotter, exhibiting in a concise manner the initial reforms they consider might be introduced with advantage into the administration of the vilayets in Armenia; and (2) a list of the wrongs, robberies, outrages, and murders committed in the various districts of Armenia during the last two years.

In reference to this latter document, Captain Everett says that the statements it contains may be considered as exact, though possibly the prices of the goods stolen are exaggerated.

I also propose to communicate the Memoranda relating to the misconduct of some of the public functionaries in Asia Minor, which I read to Said Pasha, as noted in my despatch No. 723 of the 23rd ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson and Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Therapia, August 23, 1881.*

WE have the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's consideration, a Memorandum on reforms which should be introduced in the country inhabited by Armenians.

Whilst of opinion that the introduction of radical reforms is absolutely necessary, if a permanent settlement of the country is to be effected, and if all pretext for a further extension of the Russian frontier westward is to be removed, we believe that a great improvement might be made, so far as the preservation of law and order is concerned, if two good men were selected to act as Commissioners; if competent officials were appointed as Valis; and if an efficient mixed police force or gendarmerie were organized.

Of equal importance is a provision that a portion of the annual revenue of each vilayet sufficient to cover the cost of local administration, and provide for the execution of public works, should be reserved, and applied to those services, without power of interference by the central authorities at Constantinople.

If radical reforms are to be introduced, we think that two or more Commissioners should be appointed by the European Powers for a limited period. Such Commissioners should be officially accredited to the Turkish Commissioners, and watch the application of the reforms on behalf of the Powers.

We have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.
HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Memorandum on Reforms which should be introduced in the Country inhabited by Armenians.

SUMMARY.

Pars.
1 and 2. Definition of country inhabited by Armenians.
3. Appointment of two Commissioners with full executive powers for three years.
4. Territorial boundaries to be re-adjusted.
5. Valis to be appointed by Sultan; Mutessarifs to be recommended for appointment by Commissioners; Kaimakams to be in certain cases Christians; Mudirs and Mukhtars to be elected by the people.
6. Council-General to have a well-defined control over the vilayet expenditure.
7. A proportion of the vilayet revenue to be devoted to internal administration. Havalé system to be abolished; tithes to be collected on an improved system; Vacouf revenues to be rightly applied.
8. Administrative Councils of cazas to represent fairly the communities in the cazas.
9. Reform very necessary in Law Courts and law procedure; nature of reforms required.
10. Equality of all in the eyes of the law.
11. A mixed police or gendarmerie to be formed, with a fair proportion of Christian officers.
12. An improved system of billeting necessary.
13. A re-assessment of land and house property to be made, and a census to be taken.
14. Arrangements to be made for keeping the nomads under proper control.
15. Communities which should be considered as such in any new arrangements.

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1. WE think that it is both desirable and practicable to introduce the under-mentioned reforms into the country inhabited by Armenians.

2. Roughly speaking, that country embraces the Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Hakkiari, Kharput, Dersin, and Diarbekir vilayets, excluding, perhaps, from the last the Malatia sandjak; the Sivas, Kara-Hissar, and Tocat sandjaks of the Sivas vilayet; the Marash sandjak of the Aleppo vilayet; and part of the Sis sandjak of the Adana vilayet.

3. Two Commissioners should be appointed, with the approval of the Powers, for at least three years, to superintend the introduction of reforms. They should have full executive powers, including permission, under certain restrictions, to dismiss corrupt and incapable officials, up to and including Mutessarifs. One Commissioner might have jurisdiction over the Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, and Hakkiari vilayets; the other, over the remaining portion of the district alluded to above.

4. The country should be divided, as at present, into vilayets, sandjaks, cazas, nahiés, and cariés, or mahallés. The Commissioners, acting after consultation with the Valis and the Councils-General of the vilayets, should have power to re-adjust the territorial boundaries.

5. As the successful introduction of reforms will depend almost entirely on the personal characters of the Valis, the greatest care should be exercised in the selection of these officials; such selection must necessarily rest with His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

The Valis (Governors-General) should be appointed for five years, and be removable only for misconduct or incapacity, proved before a Commission appointed *ad hoc*.

The Mutessarifs (Lieutenant-Governors) of sandjaks should be selected by the Vali, and appointed by the Sultan on the recommendation of the Commissioner. In vilayets containing three or more sandjaks, a Mutessarif should be appointed to the head-quarter sandjak, and act as the Vali's deputy in case of his absence. The appointments should be for five years.

The Kaïmakams (Governors) of cazas should be selected by the Mutessarifs, and appointed by the Valis for five years, with the approval of the Commissioner. The Kaïmakam should be a Christian if the majority of the inhabitants in the caza are Christian, and a Moslem if the majority are Moslem.

The Mudirs (Administrators) of nahiés should be elected, freely, by the Mukhtars of cariés, for two years. A Mudir, to be re-elected, should have three-fourths of the votes of the Mukhtars.

The Mukhtars (Headmen) of cariés (village communes) and mahallés (quarters of of towns) should be freely elected by the villagers or townsmen. In mixed villages, a Mukhtar should be elected by each community. Villages containing twenty houses, or under, should have only one Mukhtar; those which contain ten houses, or under, should have no Mukhtar.

6. The existing Administrative Councils of the vilayets should be abolished, and replaced by Councils-General, such as nominally exist at present. The Councils-General should consist of about eighteen paid members, and they should, in addition

to other powers, have a well-defined control over the vilayet expenditure. The composition, and mode of election to, the Council-General must remain a subject for future discussion; but each community in the vilayet, numbering 500 souls, should send at least one representative, and there should be no *ex officio* members, except, perhaps, the spiritual Chief of each community. The Valis should preside over the Councils-General.

7. A fixed percentage of the vilayet revenue should be paid into the Imperial Treasury, and the remainder devoted to the internal administration of the vilayet and works of public utility, under the control of the Council-General.

In case troops are quartered in the vilayet, the expenses connected with them should be defrayed out of the percentage reserved to the Imperial Treasury, and should on no account be a charge on the portion of the revenue assigned to the vilayet.

The system of drawing "havalés" on the revenues of the vilayets should be abolished, and existing "havalés" should be paid only out of that portion of the revenue reserved to the Imperial Treasury.

The present system of collecting the tithes should be modified and improved, so as to remove existing abuses.

Vacouf revenues should be applied to their proper objects, viz., the maintenance of mosques, schools, bridges, fountains, &c.

8. The Administrative Councils of the sandjaks should be abolished, but each caza should have, as at present, an Administrative Council. Such Council should consist of from four to six members, who should represent fairly the relative numerical strength of the communities in the caza. There should be no *ex officio* members, except perhaps the spiritual Chief of each community. The Kaïmakam should preside over the Council.

9. Reform in the Courts of Law and in the system of law procedure is very necessary. Such reform should take the form of the grant of well-defined magisterial powers to Mudirs and Kaïmakams; the establishment of travelling Courts of Assize; a reduction in the number of Courts and Judges; the simplification of law procedure; the diminution of expenses connected therewith; and the employment of a certain number of Christians as officers, clerks, &c., in the Courts.

The Inspectors of Justice should be granted executive powers to enable them to deal effectually, after approval by the Commissioner, with cases of venality and corruption on the part of judicial officials; to check irregularities in the course of legal procedure; and to insure the clearance of prisons by the prompt trial of accused persons.

The recently-created appointments of Public Prosecutor and Assistant Public Prosecutor should be abolished.

The Mustantiks, or "Juges d'Instruction," should never be members of the Courts.

The Judges of Commercial Courts should be, or have been, merchants.

The existing law as regards bribery, which punishes equally the giver and receiver of a bribe, should be altered.

Government officials accused of crime should in all cases be tried before the ordinary Courts of Law.

10. All Ottoman subjects should be equal in the eyes of the law; and Christians should receive a fair share of employment in the public offices.

11. Order should be maintained in the vilayets by a mixed police, or gendarmerie, with a fair proportion of Christian officers. The force should be efficiently organized, and recruited from Christians and Moslems at a fixed ratio per thousand of the population.

An officer of high rank and proved experience should be appointed on the staff of each Commissioner, to assist him in organizing the police.

Police agents in pursuit of criminals should be authorized to cross the boundary into adjacent vilayets.

12. The system of forcibly and gratuitously billeting on the villagers Government officials, soldiers on the march, and officers and men of the police force, should be strictly prohibited, under severe penalty. Regulations for the grant of billets should be drawn up in conjunction with the military authorities, and rigidly enforced.

13. A reassessment of land and house property should be made in each nahié and town by a land official, acting in concert with the village Councils.

A census should be made, as soon as possible, by canié and by community, with a special view to such a rearrangement of the territorial boundaries as shall secure the adequate representation of each community in the several Councils of the vilayets.

14. In dealing with the nomad Kurds, we propose that a high functionary be appointed with the title of "Ashiret Memur," who should be the principal medium of communication between the Government and all the nomad Kurdish tribes. This officer

should be invested with full powers for summarily arresting and punishing robbers and other ill-doers; he should be provided with an efficient escort, and should be constantly on the move, going from tribe to tribe, making himself thoroughly acquainted with them; he should have under his orders competent assistants, also furnished with magisterial powers, one of whom should invariably accompany every large tribe during its annual migrations.

Inducements might also be offered by the Government with a view to encourage the nomads gradually to settle down.

With regard to the raids on the Turco-Persian frontier, it is desirable that a Convention be arranged between the two Governments which shall put a stop to the disorder and irregularities that so frequently occur.

15. The communities which should be considered as such in any new arrangements are Sunni Turks, Kizilbash Turks, Sunni Kurds, Kizilbash Kurds, Circassians, Avschârs, Gregorian Armenians, Roman Catholic Armenians, Protestant Armenians, Greeks, Nestorians, Chaldeans, Jacobites, Syrian Catholics, Yezids, and Arabs.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.*
HENRY TROTTER, *Major, Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 105.

Statement of Oppressions suffered by Armenians of Kara-Kilissa and Alashgird during the Years 1879, 1880, *and* 1881, *inflicted by Kurds and Government Officials. The estimated value of Property requisitioned, robbed, or destroyed in each Village is recorded, the lira being reckoned at* 200 *piastres.*

Village of Kara-Kilissa.

TWENTY-FOUR instances, in which horses, bullocks, or carts were requisitioned by Government employés; in many cases the property was never returned. Several cases of cattle-stealing are also mentioned.

Total loss suffered by villagers, 26,377 piastres.

Village of Youtshala.

Twenty-four distinct cases of robbery of sheep, buffaloes, horses, tezek, straw, and butter. Three of the robberies were committed by the Kurds of the district, six by the Kaïmakam, six by Turks; their names are given. In several cases oxen were requisitioned for the use of the troops.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 24,486 piastres.

Village of Sapia.

Robbery of one ox and 15 okes of butter; one highway robbery and one burglary.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 2,700 piastres.

Village of Ghazoo.

Seven instances of robbery of horses and oxen, two instances of destroying crops, two instances of burning hayricks, two instances of billeting men and horses, one case of burglary, several cases of requisitioning oxen and carts.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 48,520 piastres.

Village of Manyasar.

Robberies of oxen, horses, wheat, sheep, carts, an ass, a saddle, a carpet, butter, hay, tezek, straw, and wood, by Kurds. Fifty-nine cartloads of straw taken for use of Kaïmakam on different occasions. In some cases the owners of the straw were beaten. Horses belonging to the villagers were destroyed by Kaïmakam on two separate occasions. On one occasion 200 oxen were seized to carry Government wheat to Van, no money being received in payment.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 37,320 piastres.

Village of Kupgroom.

Robbery by Kurds of a quantity of grain, one cow, and one sheep. Seizure of oxen, straw, and tezek, for use of troops. Villagers were compelled to hire seventeen oxen for Government.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 8,555 piastres.

Village of Liro.

Oxen and sheep stolen by Kurds, and oxen seized to carry Government grain to Van and Bayazid.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 7,727 piastres.

Village of Rhuder.

The Kaïmakam of Kara-Kilissa used the villagers' animals and carts to carry away their own hay and straw. He also took away the woodwork from the house of a certain Meager for fuel. Robbery by Kurds of oxen, sheep, butter, and household implements. Two cases of arson. Ten instances of requisitioning oxen and carts for use of troops.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 22,979 piastres.

Village of Maksy.

Four instances in which hay, tezek, butter, and oxen were carried away by the Kaïmakam. Three instances of robbery by Kurds, and one of burning twenty-two loads of hay.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 7,840 piastres.

Village of Iritsoo.

Fourteen robberies by Kurds of cattle. Several loads of hay and 10 okes of butter carried away by Kaïmakam for his own use. The latter requisitioned eight men, three carts, and two horses, and for the soldiers of Kara-Kilissa 5,500 okes of straw, 10 okes of butter, and four okes of oil were seized. Oxen requisitioned on three occasions for carrying grain to Van. Billeting of sixteen officers and their horses.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 46,794 piastres.

Village of Eranos.

Destruction by Kurds of seven horses and robbery of 7 somars of grain. Thirty-six loads of tezek and wood carried away for use of Government. Village church burnt down by Kaïmakam.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 12,720 piastres.

Borough of Alashgird.

Plunder of the house of a certain Verels, and rape of his daughter by a man named Toprakkala. Two instances of burglary by Kurds, seven cases of cattle-lifting, nine hayricks burnt by Kurds; two burglaries committed by Toprakkala and his band.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 78,210 piastres.

Village of Kulehloo.

Fourteen cases of cattle-stealing, two of forced labour and requisitioning cattle. Straw and tezek carried away by Kaïmakam in large quantities for troops.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 24,138 piastres.

Village of Haman.

Eighteen instances of cattle-lifting, chiefly by Kurds, two burglaries, 130 houses destroyed for fuel by Khatou Oghlou, 200 carts of hay carried off by same man, and a field of twenty loads of hay taken by him for the use of his animals; three instances of requisitioning oxen.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 99,888 piastres.

Village of Koya Bey.

Four cases of cattle-lifting, two burglaries, five instances of arson, 500 okes of straw, twelve loads of tezek, three carts of hay, and seventeen oxen were seized for use of soldiers. On one occasion the people were beaten. Oxen and buffaloes were requisitioned for carrying grain to Bayazid.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 31,911 piastres.

Village of Hushkholy.

Three cases of cattle-stealing and one burglary.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 5,760 piastres.

Village of Tyitaro.

Seven cases of burglary, fourteen instances of cattle-stealing, and two of requisitioning cattle for carrying Government grain.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 15,300 piastres.

Villages of Ichaghano and Khrasan.

Three instances of burglary, fourteen instances of cattle-stealing, five instances of burning hayricks. Robbery of butter by Kurds, of wheat by villagers of Chali, of linseed by sons of a certain Bozzi. Consumption of wheat by Government officials, who frequented the villages during seven months. Four instances of requisitioning oxen for use of soldiers.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 32,756 piastres.

Village of Khasdoor.

Nineteen instances of cattle-lifting, three cases of burglary, three hayricks used for cavalry horses. Four cases of requisitioning men, oxen, and carts.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 26,270 piastres.

Village of Khoshan.

Seven cases of burning hayricks, seven of cattle-stealing, three instances of requisitioning cattle. Destruction of a straw-shed by fire.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 17,594 piastres.

Village of Mullah Suleiman.

Twenty-four cases of cattle-stealing; five cases of burglary; eight instances of burning hay-ricks by Kurds; seven instances of reaping and plundering crops.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 39,260 piastres.

Military Oppressions.

Extortion of money (7 liras); four cases of requisition of men, oxen, and carts; seizure of grain during the famine and ill-treatment of the villagers; two cases of destroying crops.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 18,050 piastres.

Village of Ploor.

Two instances of burglary; seven of cattle-stealing; one hayrick burnt, one stable destroyed by Kurds.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 17,042 piastres.

Village of Pehlatyan

Nine burglaries; thirty-two instances of cattle-stealing; robbery of 870 piastres in cash; three instances of burning hayricks, and one of burning a straw-shed; two cases of requisitioning oxen; two of seizure of barley by soldiers.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 43,427 piastres.

Village of Karaházar.

Eight cases of cattle-stealing, and four of requisitioning cattle. In one of the latter cases the soldiers fractured the hand of the son of the owner of the cattle. On three occasions butter was seized, as also flour and wheat-meal.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 19,474 piastres.

Village of Djor-djan.

Four instances of burglary; twelve instances of cattle-stealing, and one of burning hayricks; plunder of 140 loads of straw and 5 loads of hay by Kurds; one instance of requisitioning. During one year only 384 cattle were hired without payment to carry grain to Van and Bayazid. On the 11th May, 1881, alone 201 oxen were taken from the Armenians to carry grain to Bayazid.

Total loss sustained by villagers, 35,240 piastres.

Armenians Killed, Wounded, or Assaulted in the Districts of Karu-Kilissé and Alashgird.

June 15, 1879.—Two young men were killed in the mountains near the village of Arnod by Kurds. Their names were Vartan Merkarian and Assyan Khatchadoor.

May 11, 1880.—Kaspar Sarkissian, of the village of Yanjalov, was killed by Circassians. The latter were imprisoned, but released by the order of Ali Pasha. Manook Hassepian was shot.

May 10, 1880.—Muradian, of Hedjtan, entered the house of Aspadoor, wounded him in three places, and plundered his goods.

May 19, 1880.—Five natives of Toprakkara entered the house of Verday Aspadoorian, robbed him and violated his wife and daughter. The girl Khalkhad and her brother were attacked on their way to the salt-works by Kurds. The brother was wounded and his sister violated.

No. 106.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 771.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 3, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 750 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from "La Turquie" announcing that the Grand Cordon of the Medjidieh has been conferred on Sourrouri Effendi, and that he has been raised to the rank of Kasasker of Anatolia.

There are two Kasaskers, one for Roumelia and the other for Anatolia, and they are, after the Sheikh-ul-Islam, the highest judicial functionaries of the Empire in the Sheriat Administration.

They are Presidents of the two Chambers of Arzodaci, or High Courts of Appeal in matters pertaining to the Sacred Law. They nominate, subject to the Sultan's approval, all the Cadis in their respective jurisdictions, and they are entitled to one-fortieth of all legacies and inheritances. Their salary is computed at from 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.* per annum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Extract from "La Turquie" of September 2, 1881.

SOURROURI EFFENDI, Premier Président de la Cour d'Appel, est élevé au rang de Caïsasker d'Anatolie et est nommé en même temps Grand Cordon de l'Ordre Impérial du Médjidié.

No. 107.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 784.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 6, 1881.*

THE conference at which I hoped to formally open the Armenian question has been postponed from to-day till Friday, with a view to consulting the convenience of some of my colleagues.

As I am in hopes this may give time for the arrival of the French Ambassador, the delay need not be much regretted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 108.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 639.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September 16, 1881.*

I HAVE read with satisfaction your despatch No. 735, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, containing the report of your conversation with the Secretary of the Armenian Patriarch, and I approve the course adopted by your Excellency in communicating to him your views on the Armenian question, as summarized in your despatch No. 757 of the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 109.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 371.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, September 15, 1881, 11·50 P.M.*

AT interview with Sultan to-day, Sultan promised that within a month he would send a high functionary into the eastern provinces of Asia Minor to put an end to the abuses complained of.

He added that he would have done so sooner if his attention had not been so absorbed by the financial question and his recent anxieties about Egypt.

I will do my best to get the nomination made at an earlier date, but it is something to have obtained this positive assurance from His Majesty's own lips.

No. 110.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 785. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 9, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose some extracts confidentially addressed to a gentleman here by Rustem Pasha, the Governor of the Lebanon, describing the way in which the French are endeavouring to acquire the friendship and confidence of the Druses of the Hauran and of the Mountain.

In a subsequent letter, with a copy of which, however, it is unnecessary for me to trouble your Lordship, Rustem Pasha gives an account of the manner in which the French are working against him, with the view, as his Excellency supposes, to prevent the renewal of his term of office, which expires next year, and in the hopes of substituting in his place a son of Franco Pasha, who is said to be devoted to French interests.

In another letter Rustem Pasha mentions the intention of M. Roustan to spend his holidays in Syria, in order to renew the reminiscences of his younger days, which he passed as Consul at Damascus.

The contemplated residence of this enterprising gentleman in the province seems to have occasioned considerable sensation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Extracts from Letters addressed to Sir G. Thomas by Rustem Pasha.

(Très Confidentielle.) *Beit Eddin, le 12 Août*, 1881.

JE crois vous avoir dit quelques mots, dans ma précédente lettre, au sujet du désaccord qui existe entre le Muchir du 5e Corps d'Armée, Hussein Feïzi Pacha et M. Flesch, Consul de France à Damas. J'ai eu dernièrement, sur les faits récents qui se sont passés, et sur les causes de ce désaccord, des informations qui me paraissent importantes, et dont je veux vous dire quelques mots. Les principaux Cheiks Druses du Hauran ont envoyé au Liban un émissaire qui avait pour mission de me voir, de me raconter certains incidents qui ont eu lieu dans leurs parages, et de me consulter, ainsi que les principaux Druses du Liban, sur la ligne de conduite à suivre. Je me trouvais alors dans le nord du Liban, et je n'ai pas pu voir cet Envoyé, mais il a longuement causé avec le Caïmacam du Chérif qui appartient à l'importante famille Druse des Roslan, et voici à peu près ce qu'il a exposé :

Depuis quelque temps, le Consul de France à Damas fait de grands efforts pour se rapprocher des Druses et pour essayer de les gagner.

Il a envoyé à quelques-uns d'entre eux des cadeaux de revolvers, de montres, de bijoux, et leur a fait les promesses les plus séduisantes s'ils voulaient invoquer la protection de la France, et se placer sous son égide.

La France s'engagerait à les protéger et à prendre en mains tous leurs intérêts. Le Consul a cité, à titre d'exemple, les Maronites du Liban, qui peuvent compter, toutes les fois que l'occasion s'en fait sentir, sur l'appui de leur puissante bienfaitrice. Les Druses eux-mêmes, a-t-il dit, ont pu voir à leurs dépens, en 1860, avec quelle efficacité la protection de la France pouvait s'exercer. Il ne tiendrait qu'à eux de se créer des titres à la même protection. On a fait aussi ce qui était possible pour mettre les Druses en défiance contre le Gouvernement Ottoman. On leur a dit que le Gouvernement construit en ce moment des blockhous dans le Hauran; qu'une fois ces travaux achevés, on en profitera pour soumettre tous les Druses à la conscription militaire, et que le Gouvernement a aussi l'arrière-pensée de s'emparer de toutes les terres des Druses pour les soumettre au régime du tapou.

D'après le même Envoyé, le Consul aurait aussi beaucoup fait pour obtenir des principaux Cheiks Druses une déclaration disant que le Muchir a empêché M. de Torcy de pénétrer dans le Hauran.

Après quelque hésitation, on s'est décidé à ne pas donner cette déclaration. Il en est de même des pétitions que le Consul voudraient se faire remettre par les Cheiks et les Notables du Hauran pour invoquer la protection de la France; jusqu'à présent, elles n'ont pas été faites.

J'ai pensé que ces informations que je tiens, comme vous le voyez, de source assez sûre, auraient pour vous de l'intérêt, et je vous les donne à titre strictement confidentiel.

P.S.—Nous avons fait dire au Cheiks Druses qui ont été l'objet des avances dont je vous parle plus haut, de se tenir sur la plus grande réserve; ils devront être polis, mais en même temps prudents et ne s'engager à rien.

No. 111.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

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(No. 791. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 9*, 1881.

THE Secretary of the Armenian Patriarch called on me to-day, and intimated the desire of his Beatitude to be admitted to an audience with the Sultan, which he hoped might be brought about by my intervention.

In a previous conversation with M. Minasse Tchéraz I had rather counselled this step, on the ground that it might prove useful if Mgr. Narses did something to dispel from the Sultan's mind the suspicion he entertains in regard to the extravagant pretensions of the Armenian people. In acquainting me with the Patriarch's desire, M. Minasse Tchéraz handed me confidentially the accompanying document as being the project of the speech his Beatitude proposed to read to His Majesty. Your Lordship will perceive that towards the end of this paper the Patriarch declares that his community do not

contemplate a separate political existence, nor have they any "velléité de l'indépendance."

I have drawn your Lordship's attention to these expressions, which have been spontaneously introduced by the Patriarch, as a proof that I have not misinterpreted in my previous despatches the views which animate the leaders of the Armenian community.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Proposed Speech of Armenian Patriarch to the Sultan at the Interview which he wishes the Ambassador to procure for him.

(Confidentiel.)

JE n'ai jamais oublié que je suis un enfant de ce sol, ni que je suis le Chef spirituel d'une nation qui de tout temps a vécu dans la plus stricte fidélité envers son Souverain. Si j'ai importuné Votre Majesté pour des réformes à introduire dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens, c'est que j'étais fermement convaincu que ces réformes étaient nécessaires aux Arméniens et à l'Empire. J'ai peut-être pêché par la forme, mais Votre Majesté peut être convaincu de la sincérité de mes sentiments. Je suis sûr que Votre Majesté n'est animée que du désir d'améliorer le sort des populations qui lui sont confiées par la Providence; comme les Arméniens ne demandent rien autre chose que l'amélioration de leur sort, ce qui est à déplorer pour moi c'est que l'objectif étant le même, les Arméniens aux yeux du Gouvernement paraissent avoir répudié leur fidélité séculaire. Comme le Gouvernement paraît ne pas avoir pour eux la sollicitude voulue, je me demande si je ne suis pas personnellement la cause de ce malentendu entre mon Souverain et ses sujets. Ma santé décline tous les jours; je n'ai personnellement aucune ambition; je suis comme ma nation, qui n'a aucune ambition, qui ne vise ni à une existence politique, ni à aucune velléité d'indépendance. Je suis prêt à faire tous les sacrifices pour que le calme soit rétabli entre mon Souverain et ses sujets, mes enfants spirituels. Quoi qu'il arrive, quoi qu'on fasse, ma nation et moi nous resterons unis, dévoués, fidèles au trône de Votre Majesté, sous l'égide duquel nous avons placé notre nationalité et notre avenir.

No. 112.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 792. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 9*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting a collision between the Persian troops and the Shikak Kurds, and the flight of the latter into Turkish territory followed by Persian troops.

I have already warned the Sublime Porte of the danger which is likely to arise if these uncivilized hordes are allowed to settle down among a peaceful and less warlike population, as the only resource left to them will be plunder.

On receiving Captain Clayton's despatch I renewed the warning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 34. Confidential.)

Sir, *Van, August 23*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Persians have recently attacked the Shikak Kurds under Ali Khan. The Persians appear to have committed great barbarities, burning villages and putting women and children to the sword. Ali Khan begged for permission to take refuge on Turkish territory, and I have reason to believe that the

local government telegraphed to Constantinople for instructions, and received a reply that no answer was to be given officially to Ali Khan, but that if he or his people should quietly cross the frontier, no notice should be taken of it.

The authorities, however, profess that the Shikaks will not be allowed to enter Turkish territory. It is pretty certain, nevertheless, that not only have considerable numbers of them crossed the frontier, but that Persian troops have followed in pursuit, though as yet I have no certain information as to how far they have penetrated on Turkish soil or what they have done.

I may perhaps be permitted to call to your remembrance that the Shikaks are the wildest and most unruly tribe of Kurds of any in this part of the country. They dwell in the tract of country forming the boundary between Persia and Hakkiari, and their misdeeds have been innumerable, almost their sole occupation being to plunder the country on both sides of the frontier, robbing Persians, Kurds, and Christians indifferently. They richly deserve punishment, but by all accounts the Persians are inflicting it like barbarians, not like civilized troops. At the same time, it is much to be feared lest the Shikaks if they take refuge on this side may cause great trouble to the peaceable inhabitants of Hakkiari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 113.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

E. MS.
(No. 795. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 10, 1881.*

YESTERDAY the Ambassadors met in Conference, at my invitation, for the purpose of considering the Armenian question. As I have already informed your Lordship, M. Novikoff has been here about a week, and M. Tissot had arrived the day before, so that we had the advantage of his presence also. Germany was represented by Baron de Hirschfeld.

I opened the proceedings by briefly calling the attention of my colleagues to the fact that the collective note of the 7th September of last year had never been answered by the Porte, although it had indicated in very express terms the dissatisfaction felt by the Powers at the non-fulfilment of the reforms which the Ottoman Government was bound by the Treaty of Berlin to apply to the Armenian provinces, at the same time that it displayed in considerable detail the character of the ameliorations desired. "It is true," I observed, "in its note of the 3rd October, which reached the Ambassadors after the collective note had been dispatched, the Porte had announced in vague and general terms its intention of reorganizing its Administration in Armenia, but the two or three paragraphs devoted to these topics could not be regarded as an answer to the communication of the Ambassadors, and the declarations they contain have proved as futile as all the previous promises of the Porte upon the subject. Under these circumstances, it appeared to me advisable that we should address another note to the Foreign Minister, reinforcing the suggestions and demands embodied in our own note of the 7th September, 1880, and reminding him that, in spite of the allusion to the Armenian reforms in the Turkish note of the 3rd October, the Powers were still expecting some more definite exposition of the Porte's intentions. But, though this," I submitted, "might be a convenient way of reopening the campaign, it was still more important to induce the Ottoman Government to adopt some practical and immediate remedy for the intolerable anarchy which at present prevailed in most of the eastern vilayets of Asia Minor, where neither life nor property was safe, where the people were groaning under the most horrible oppression at the hands of corrupt and incompetent officials, and where fierce and lawless nomads were perpetually devastating the homes and farms of the industrious Christian populations. Even if the disposition of the Turks were changed, and they were inclined to enter upon a course of reform, of which there was at present no indication, some time must elapse before a well-considered scheme could be elaborated and applied. In the meantime murder, robbery, pillage, misgovernment, and official corruption would continue as rife as ever. Might it not, then, be possible to induce the Sultan to send some person of acknowledged honesty and force of character, whose name itself would be a guarantee to Europe, into these disorganized districts (in the same way as Fuad Pasha had been sent to Syria in 1861), with ample powers to dismiss the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors of vilayets who had failed in their duty, in order that he might bring something like peace, order, and decent government into the existing chaos? It would, perhaps, be difficult to make such a suggestion in a collective form without exciting the jealousy of the Sovereign and his Ministers; but each individual Ambassador might press the matter both upon the Sultan and at the Porte, and thus, by our concerted, but not identic, action, arrive at the desired result. To discover an Ottoman official fitted for so important a post would be, indeed, no easy matter; but two candidates, at all events, occurred to me, both of whom possessed at the present moment the confidence of their Master, and were well regarded by the European Governments, namely, Monkhtar Pasha and Raouf Pasha."

Having thus submitted to my colleagues the idea of a High Commissioner, I proceeded to remind them "that such an expedient could only be regarded as temporary and provisional, and that it could not exclude or supersede what we had pledged ourselves to obtain for our Armenian clients, namely, an effectual series of permanent reforms. Of course it would be preferable if the Porte itself, or the High Commissioner, should initiate the necessary ameliorations. In the note of the Powers of the 7th September, 1880, though the principles which ought to regulate the desired reforms were stated, it was left to the Porte to elaborate and apply them; but the mere issue of a summons of this kind would not relieve us from the duty of ourselves carefully considering what those reforms should be, in order that we might be in a position to judge, if the Porte itself moved in the matter, how far its proposals were adequate, and, if not, in what way and to what degree they might be supplemented by suggestions of our own. In order to facilitate the discharge of such a task, I had asked the British Consul-General, Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.M.G., C.B.,* and another of our military Consuls, Major Trotter, C.B., both officers of large experience and great ability, and who were thoroughly acquainted with the eastern provinces of Asia Minor, to draw up the sketch of a project which I proposed to communicate confidentially to the Conference. In doing so, however, I wished it to be understood that the scheme in question must be regarded as merely tentative, and that I offered it rather as a convenient basis for discussion than as a project I was prepared to advocate *en bloc*; still less would I be willing to stand committed to its details. Some of its suggestions, however excellent, it might not be politic or opportune to press upon the Porte at the present moment. The political experience possessed by my colleagues would probably enable them to introduce improvements into others. Be that as it might, there was the project in question, which I had great pleasure in handing over to our Doyen, M. Novikoff, and which would be found to embody all the suggestions made by the Powers in the note of the 7th September, 1880.

"There was yet one other matter," I went on to say, "in regard to which I hoped to profit by the assistance of my brother Ambassadors. I had already alluded to the imbecility and corruption of many of the Valis and Mutessarifs in the Armenian districts. My bad opinion of these men was founded upon very elaborate Reports of their misconduct, which had been furnished to me by the Consuls and Vice-Consuls who had been eye-witnesses of the sufferings occasioned by their cruelty and misgovernment. I had already pressed their dismissal upon the Porte. One, probably the worst of the whole number, the Mutessarif of Bayazid, had two days ago been sent about his business, and hopes had been given me that some of the others would be dealt with in a similar manner; but, as nothing but constant pressure would ever induce the Ottoman Government to punish their Agents, no matter how gross their misconduct, I trusted I might count upon my colleagues to back up my representations. Of course, I could not expect them to take a leading part in pressing for the dismissal of men about whom some of them could not be very accurately informed, but, in order that they might understand the grounds of my action, I had prepared a confidential résumé of the allegations preferred against some of these individuals,† which I also begged to lay upon the table, in order that, whenever a fitting opportunity presented itself, the several Ambassadors might convey to the Porte an intimation that they were not altogether ignorant of the ill-repute and misdeeds of the officials in question. I also begged to submit to the Conference a list of murders, robberies, and other outrages which had been committed within only a small area, an area not exceeding 2,000 square miles, during the last year and a half." These had been carefully examined by Captain Everett, our military Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, who vouched for their general trustworthiness, although he stated that, as was natural should be the case, the value attached by the possessors to the cattle and property taken from them was probably an exaggerated estimate."

I concluded by summarizing my programme in the following terms:—

* See No. 105. † See No. 75.

1. The appointment of a High Commissioner as a temporary expedient for alleviating the present misery of the Armenian population;

2. An intimation to the Porte that we still held to the views expressed by the Powers in their note of the 7th September, 1880, and desired to persist in the demands conveyed in that document;

3. An endeavour to procure the immediate dismissal of those Valis and Mutessarifs whose misconduct was most notorious; and

4. The elaboration within the bosom of the Conference of a well-considered and practical project of permanent reforms, to be pressed with the united authority of Europe upon the acceptance of the Ottoman Government, should it refuse to move in the matter, or endeavour to put us off with some delusive or inadequate project.

"It was true, in the solution of the Armenian question we could no longer count upon those material aids which so powerfully contributed to the settlement of at least one of the problems which had been recently occupying the attention of Europe. But, on the other hand, I was convinced that a scheme could be elaborated which would amply satisfy all the legitimate requirements and aspirations of the Armenian and other Christian communities, without detriment either to the interests or the dignity of Turkey. In the project I had submitted no mention was made either of autonomy or of semi-independence. On the contrary, such terms as these ought to be carefully excluded from our programme, as they would at once induce the Porte to regard our proposals with an evil eye. All that was aimed at was the good government of the districts dealt with, and the happiness of their inhabitants, whether Christian or Mahommedan; security of life and property; equity before the law; the due administration of justice; a humane system of taxation; and a fair opportunity for every citizen to accumulate wealth, and thus add to the general prosperity of the Empire. All these objects would prove as beneficial to the Ottoman Government as to the particular classes in whom we were more especially interested; and if, in seeking to attain these ends, care was taken not to wound the susceptibilities of the Sultan and of the Porte, and to convince them that, far from entertaining designs hostile to their future, we were only anxious for the enrichment and prosperity of their Empire, it was not impossible that success might eventually crown our endeavours."

My colleagues, who had listened to the foregoing exposition with great patience and courtesy, proceeded in turn to signify their general assent to its leading propositions, and the idea of pressing the Porte and the Sultan to send at once a High Commissioner into the disorganized districts of Asia Minor was accepted unanimously, subject to a formal reference home on the part of some of the Representatives. M. Novikoff, however, objected to the transmission of a collective note to the Porte, on the ground that it was more calculated to cause irritation and annoyance to the Sultan than to advance the object we had in view; and that it would be better that each of us should convey verbally to the Porte, in such terms as he might deem best, the general tenour of what I had proposed to send in writing. The Ambassador of France inclining to the same opinion, I at once said "that the note to the Porte was by no means an essential part of my programme; that I had advocated it merely as a convenient mode of commencing the campaign and waking up the Ottoman Government, which had apparently gone to sleep over the Armenian question, and more especially with a view to making them understand that they were not to regard our proposal of a High Commissioner as substituted for the demands for radical reforms formulated in the note of the Powers of the 7th September, but that we insisted as strenuously as ever on the requirements set forth in that document. If, however, my colleagues, with their larger experience, and their acquaintance with the previous negotiations on the subject, were of opinion that the note was inopportune, I was quite ready to acquiesce in their view. A verbal representation such as was suggested by M. Novikoff would be almost equally effective, and would certainly be less likely to give offence, which, of course, was a consequence to be avoided. Moreover, if the occasion should hereafter require it, we should always be able to reconsider the matter, and address the Porte in a more formal manner than was now proposed."

As the result of this general agreement, the accompanying paper was drawn up to serve as a *pro-memorid* to each of the Ambassadors in our concerted representations at the Porte and to the Sultan.

I may further mention that all my colleagues are agreed in thinking that the nomination either of Moukhtar Pasha or of Raouf Pasha as High Commissioner would be an excellent appointment, and I have reason to believe that, although the Armenian Patriarch and his friends would, of course, prefer a Christian (an arrangement which it would be hopeless to press upon the Turks, and in demanding which I should not receive

the support of my colleagues), they would be very well content to see Moukhtar Pasha, in whom they have considerable confidence, advanced to the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Pro-memorid.

PRENDRE pour point de départ la note collective relative aux réformes Arméniennes en date du 7 Septembre, 1880.

Constater que la note Turque du 3 Octobre n'y a que très imparfaitement répondu, en ce sens qu'elle s'est bornée à faire entrevoir les réformes que le Gouvernement Turc considère comme utiles, mais sans indiquer aucune mesure pour les mettre à exécution. La situation est restée la même, si elle n'est devenue pire.

Tout en maintenant le point du vue auquel les Puissances se sont placées dans leur communication à la Porte, elles seraient heureuses de faciliter la mise à exécution de ce programme. Elles croient agir dans l'intérêt bien entendu du Gouvernement Turc lui-même en lui suggérant l'envoi d'un haut fonctionnaire d'une moralité et d'une capacité éprouvée, à l'initiative duquel reviendrait l'honneur de réaliser les intentions du Souverain; au quel ens tout le mérite du bien réalisé reviendrait vis-à-vis de ses sujets au Sultan, et diminuerait d'autant l'initiative imposée aux Puissances par l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin.

No. 114.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 797. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 12, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Warlow recommending the dismissal of Hassan, Kaïmakam of Dudscheh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 16. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 5, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the bad opinion which I formed last year* of Hassan, Kaïmakam of Dudscheh, Vilayet of Kastamoni, has been confirmed by all that I have heard from various quarters during my last tour; he is simply an official "Fagan," an abettor of criminals, and a sharer in their plunder; his sobriquet of "the Pig" shows the detestation in which he is held by the Turkish peasantry, the victims of his misrule.

I would venture most earnestly to urge his dismissal, and the appointment of a picked man to succeed him in what is undoubtedly a difficult post.

I may mention that this Kaïmakam is by far the worst official I have come across, and the first whose dismissal I have recommended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

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* Despatch dated July 30, 1880, paragraph 2

No. 115.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 708.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Warlow on the subject of the removal of the Sandjak of Balikesri from the Vilayet of Khudavendikyar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Sandjak of Balikesri has been removed from the Vilayet of Khudavendikyar, and, joined to the Sandjak of Bigha, forms the new Vilayet of Balikesri.

2. I presume that this change does not affect my position with reference to the (late) Sandjak of Balikesri.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 116.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 465.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatches Nos. 320 and 324 of the 31st ultimo, and to inclose herewith to your Lordship a copy (in print) of the Earl of Dufferin's despatch No. 725 of the 23rd ultimo to your Lordship, relative to the condition of the Asiatic provinces of the Turkish Empire, and showing the passages, between red pencil marks,* which I have omitted in communicating its contents this day to M. de Giers, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's last-mentioned despatch, in a note, copy of which is herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Mr. Wyndham to M. de Giers.

M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, *St. Petersburgh, September* $\frac{3}{14}$, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency, by order of Earl Granville, the record of a very important conversation which the Earl of Dufferin, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, has had lately with the Turkish Prime Minister relative to the condition of the Asiatic provinces of the Empire and the reforms which are indispensable for their improvement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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* Indicated by brackets.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.

(No. 725.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 23, 1881.

HAVING now had frequent opportunities of consulting with Colonel Sir Charles W. Wilson and Major Trotter (whom I have summoned to Constantinople for the purpose) on the character and conduct of the various Ottoman authorities, both in the Lesser and the Greater Armenia, and the end of Ramazan being at hand, I waited yesterday upon Said Pasha, and informed him that having already pressed upon his Highness in general terms the necessity of at once proceeding to inaugurate the Armenian reforms in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, I had now come, by the express orders of my Government, for the purpose of calling his attention to the flagrant misconduct and incapacity of various high Turkish officials in both Armenias, to whose cruelty, corruption, and stupidity must be attributed the anarchy prevailing in those provinces, and the intolerable misery of their inhabitants, both Mahommedan and Christian.

I then proceeded to name the chief offenders as follows:—Ismail Hakki Pasha, Vali of Sivas; Izzet Pasha, Vali of Diarbekir; Mehemet Effendi, Procureur-General of Sivas; Ibrahim Bey, Mutessarif of Bayazid; Munif Pasha, Mutessarif of Murash, and I intimated that nothing short of the dismissal of these persons, and the substitution of others, would satisfy the necessities of the situation.

Before entering upon the subject I had provided myself with carefully prepared memoranda in French, founded on the despatches of Sir Charles W. Wilson, Major Trotter, Captain Clayton, Captain Everett, and Lieutenant Bennet [copies of which I inclose,*] in which the malpractices of these individuals were displayed, and I proceeded to read their contents to his Highness. On concluding I observed that the discharge of such a task had been most ungrateful to my feelings, and that his Highness must not suppose I was laying a criminal information against the officials inculpated: some of the accusations against them were undoubtedly only based on report, and on the general conviction entertained by public opinion in their regard, and others might be susceptible of explanation; but, on the other hand, the substance of the documents I had read to his Highness emanated from gentlemen of great intelligence, experience, and humanity, and of the highest honour, who would be incapable of bringing such charges unless they were convinced of their substantial truth and justice, and that, consequently, after every deduction had been made which a spirit of fairness and impartiality could suggest on behalf of the incriminated individuals, it was more than sufficiently apparent that they were utterly unfit for the posts which they at present occupied. Moreover, I added, with respect to the Mutessarif of Bayazid, there were especial circumstances, which I had already referred to in a previous note to the Porte, rendering his immediate dismissal inevitable.

The Prime Minister had listened to what I had read with great attention, and he now proceeded to thank me for my communication, which he accepted as a proof of the sincere interest which Her Majesty's Government took in the welfare of Turkey; and he gave me to understand that he would give to my observations the attention they deserved, and that he expected to be able to deal with the cases referred to in a manner satisfactory to your Lordship.

In order to give still greater point to the observations I have recorded, I informed the Prime Minister of your Lordship's suggestion, that I should get extracts from Captain Everett's despatches translated into Turkish, and bring them myself to the personal knowledge of the Sultan.

Having thus accomplished the more immediate object of my visit to Said Pasha, I again reverted to the larger question of general reforms in Asia Minor, and especially in Armenia.

In doing so, I endeavoured to make his Highness understand that, although the exceptional misery of the Christians in Armenia had attracted the special attention of Europe, it would be a mistake to suppose that the wretched condition of the Mahommedan population was not also a matter of the deepest solicitude to Her Majesty's Government, and that if I was instructed to urge these reforms upon the Porte it was in the general interests of the Sultan and of Turkey, and not from a desire to see exceptional privileges conferred upon the more or less scattered members of a particular ecclesiastical rite. If the term Armenia was used, it was in a geographical rather than

in an ethnic sense, and the Porte would labour under a mischievous misapprehension if it thought that either Europe or England were desirous of creating a hostile or aggressive Armenian *imperium* in the bosom of the Ottoman Empire. The material elements of the problem did not lend itself to such a solution of the question. Unlike the Greeks in Thessaly, and the Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia and in the Principality, who were agglomerated in homogeneous masses, the Armenians were disseminated up and down the land in scattered groups, and were so dovetailed into the rest of the population as to leave few localities in which they could claim a numerical preponderance, and that, consequently, it would be the sheerest folly, if from jealousy or fear of their political pretensions as a nationality, the Porte should refuse them good government and the benefit of equal laws. [It was not in that direction that danger was to be apprehended. On the contrary, it was evidently the interest of the Ottoman Government to elevate their condition, to conciliate and bind them to the fortunes of the Empire, to make use of their natural intelligence and their aptitude for public employment. Unlike the Slav races, or even the Greeks, there was a natural sympathy between the Turkish and Armenian races, and only factitious circumstances had engendered dissensions between them. If only the wrong-headedness born of religious fanaticism were got rid of by the dominant race, the Armenians might prove the most potent bulwark of the Sultan's Eastern dominions. As far as I could learn, this was the view taken by the moderate section of the Armenians. They were alive to the danger of rendering themselves, by the unreasonableness of their pretensions, objects of hostility to the population amongst whom they lived. Though acknowledging the greater material prosperity of their kindred, who had already begun to benefit from Russian administration, they evidently would still prefer, if a tolerable *modus vivendi* were created for them, to remain under the rule of the Sultan, in the expectation that, when associated on equal terms with their Turkish fellow-subjects in the government of the country, a fairer and more promising field would be presented to them in the future than if they were engulfed in a despotic Empire of which they would only form an insignificant province.

The dread of seeing their independent ecclesiastical organization abolished, and their spiritual autonomy merged in the National Church of Russia, was an additional inducement to them to regard with jealousy and aversion the aggressive designs attributed to that Power. To my mind it appeared, therefore, that, if only the Porte desired it, there was still time for the Sultan to recover the confidence and affection of his Armenian Christian subjects; and, as far as I was concerned, I should be happy to contribute to this result by advising the Armenian community to content themselves with such a moderate and reasonable settlement as would secure all the rights, privileges, and advantages which a minority could claim. On the other hand, it must be remembered that, if things were permitted to continue in their present condition, but one consequence could ensue. Already I had been told by an Armenian, who was anything but favourable to Russia, that the contrast between the condition of his fellow-countrymen on the Russian and on Turkish side of the frontier was very staggering to his political predilections. His hopes were bound up with a Turkish Armenia, well governed and contented, but the fruits already exhibited by ten years of Russian administration had begun to make him hesitate whether his people ought not to fix their hopes on its extension westward, rather than on the regeneration of his native country.

"Such being the conclusions to which one of your best friends is tempted to come," I said to his Highness, "what will be the resolves which the more violent and impatient leaders of the nation will be driven to embrace if you permit these contrasts to continue? You think, perhaps, that England's interests are so bound up with the integrity of your Eastern provinces that you can brave all consequences. But a great change has taken place in English opinion. Russia is not the bugbear she used to be. Many people think that with an independent Afghanistan, Hindostan is as safe as an island, and that the advance of Russia, whether southward or westward, is of less concern to Great Britain than to any other European nation. On the other hand, England having become of late years far more democratic than formerly, public opinion has grown very sensitive to human suffering.

"I have already been instructed to warn you that, anxious as Her Majesty's Government might be to preserve to the Sultan his province of Tripoli, you must not rely upon our countenance if you wantonly provoke a neighbouring European Power. In the same manner the day may come when, wearied by the continually recurring tales of anarchy and murder, rapine, and misgovernment, which is rendering the burden of human life in Armenia insupportable, Great Britain should remain an indifferent spectator to the rescue of its population from the corrupt and tyrannical rule of your Pashas by a liberating Power."

His Highness again thanked me; said he fully felt the force of what I had stated, and would repeat every word of it to the Sultan.

In reply, I begged his Highness to remember that my latter observations must be considered as only my own personal appreciation of the situation, and not as having emanated from your Lordship.]

I ended by again entreating the Prime Minister to urge the Sultan to send some personage of character and distinction to Armenia as a High Commissioner, with full power to govern the country (as was done in the case of Fuad Pasha) until the proposed reforms were elaborated. His Highness seemed to imply that this might be possible.

[I trust that your Lordship will find nothing amiss or out of harmony with the instructions I have received in the foregoing paragraphs, which have of necessity been written in great haste to catch the mail, and which only give a very condensed abstract of my yesterday's conversation with the Prime Minister.]

Having now had some little time to study the Armenian problem, I have convinced myself that it will be impossible to disengage it from the general question of the good government of the Asiatic provinces of Asia Minor. From the fact of Armenia having been mentioned in the Treaty of Berlin, and from the province exhibiting the predominant evils of Turkish rule in an exceptionally aggravated form, as well as from the large Christian population which it contains, it will be very desirable to require the Porte to commence its task of internal reform with Armenia, and to concentrate all our attention upon the consummation of this object; but in doing so it will be most important to avoid rendering the Armenian community an object of jealousy and hatred to the Mussulman population and the Mussulman rulers of Turkey, by inflating their pretensions as a distinct race beyond what circumstances justify.

[It is quite evident that whatever is to be done must be done more or less by persuasion rather than intimidation, a weapon which will only prove really formidable in the hands of Russia. Although, at the instance of your Lordship, Germany, France, and Austria may lend us their assistance, it will be, I fear, more out of complaisance than from any real enthusiasm in the cause, and the Turks are only too quick in divining when Europe ceases to be united. On the other hand, from the geographical situation of the country, those material means of bringing pressure, which were so effectual in settling the Greek and Montenegrin questions, are entirely wanting.] It appears to me, therefore, that it would be prudent, in approaching the Armenian question, that our demands should be confined to what it would be possible for the Turks to grant with a due regard to their own dignity and interests, the maintenance of which I need not say will be perfectly compatible with the widest interpretation of the just pretensions of our Christian clients.

The Feast of Bairam will be held at the end of this week, and I propose immediately after to open proceedings by suggesting to my colleagues that we should ask for an answer to the collective note of the Powers sent in on the 7th September, 1880, and to which no reply has been yet returned; and at this moment Sir C. Wilson and Major Trotter, the two men who know the country best, are employed in drawing up a scheme of provincial administration for both the Greater and Lesser Armenia, which may serve as a basis for the consultations of the Ambassadors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S.—The Sultan has sent me a message that he would desire to see me after Bairam, and, with your Lordship's approval, I propose to urge upon him the same considerations as are contained in this despatch.

D.

No. 117.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 393. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 17, 1881.*

LORD DUFFERIN reports in his despatch to your Lordship No. 761, Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, that the German Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople asked him what was the motive underlying England's policy in Asia Minor, as it could not be merely humanitarian, since no country was really actuated by impulses of that description.

Prince Bismarck is better informed than his Representative on the Bosphorus. A

friend, who happened to be present at the meeting of Prince Bismarck and M. de Giers on board the Imperial yacht in the harbour of Dantzig, confided to me that, when the Russian Foreign Secretary wanted to consult the German Chancellor's opinion on the Armenian question, Prince Bismarck interrupted him and said, "This is not a political but a purely humanitarian question, and as such should be left to be dealt with by England alone."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 118.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 651.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 20, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 765 of the 1st instant, inclosing copies of the papers relating to Asia Minor and the projected reforms which your Excellency proposed to communicate to the Conference of Ambassadors, and I have to request you to convey my thanks to Sir C. Wilson and Major Trotter for their valuable Report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 119.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 804.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Biliotti, reporting on the condition of the Lazes at Kerassond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 51.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September* 1, 1881.

NEARLY a fortnight ago about 100 armed Lazes repaired in the town of Kerassond and surrounded the Belediè (Municipality), where the Kaïmakam happened to be, and declared that they would allow no one to depart unless a kilé of Indian corn was given to each of them. The Kaïmakam sent immediately for 100 loaves of bread, which were distributed to the Lazes, to whom he promised a supply of Indian corn in one or two days. Before departing the immigrants stated that they would return with their arms at the appointed time, and that if the promise made to them was not fulfilled they would procure themselves the Indian corn of which they were in need.

The occurrence having been telegraphed to Yussuf Pasha, he instructed the authorities at Thermé and Tcharchamba to send forthwith Indian corn to Kerassond, and ordered the Kaïmakam of that town to furnish in the meantime the immigrants with money, to procure food for themselves and families. These instructions having been followed, no further disturbance took place.

I may here mention that just before his recall at Constantinople Sirri Pasha, having proceeded to Kerassond in order to collect arrears which the Porte was claiming from the populations, found that their supply of cereals was so scanty that he did not enforce the instructions he had received, in order to enable the inhabitants to procure corn. As many of them were even deprived of the means to buy food, he caused part of the funds of the Agricultural Bank (established some years since in all districts), and which were in the hands of a few rich and influential individuals, to be distributed among the neediest.

The outbreak on the part of the Lazes was the consequence of the general scarcity which prevailed in the district, and of their rations in kind or money not being regularly

distributed to them. But how can the local authorities disburse money for immigrants when they receive stringent and repeated orders, to which they cannot do otherwise than obey, to send to Constantinople all the funds existing in the Government safes in the province.

Towards the same time the nineteen prisoners kept in confinement at Kerassond escaped from gaol, owing to the inadequacy of the prison guard. The police managed to capture only fifteen of the escaped prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 120.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 806. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 14, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 792 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in reply to observations I caused to be made to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the subject of the Shikak tribes, his Excellency stated that the Sublime Porte was little disposed to afford shelter or protection to marauders of that description, but that it would be entirely inconsistent with the feelings of humanity to drive back these people across the frontier into Persia and thus expose them to the savage cruelty of the Persians, at whose hands they were actually experiencing the most unmerciful treatment.

His Excellency added that, under the circumstances, it would seem to him that the best course would be for the Persian troops to deal less severely with the tribes in question, so as not to force them to take refuge on Ottoman territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 121.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 807. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Clayton, reporting on the relations between the Armenians and the Imperial Government.

I am about to make representations to the Sublime Porte on the subject of Réouf Bey, and put them on their guard against his misrepresentations. I will also take an opportunity to support Karakeen Vartabed with the Armenian Patriarch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 35. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, August* 30, 1881.

I DESIRE to bring to your notice the present state of the relations between the Government and the Armenians, which at present are not on the most cordial footing.

I am bound to say that, in my opinion, the fault lies very largely with the Armenians. They have been in the habit of holding meetings on school anniversaries and such-like occasions, at which speeches were made, and the children sung patriotic songs. As a general rule, the speeches were of the most innocent nature, but there have been occasions when discourses of a decidedly seditious character have been delivered, and others when, although the intention was merely to stir the Armenians up to help themselves in the way of advance in education and civilization, yet the language was

equivocal, so as to excite the suspicions of the Turks and the Government. In consequence, the Government endeavoured, by unofficial communications, to induce the Armenians to desist from these meetings. But the Armenians declined to take a friendly hint, and said they would only cease from their meetings if a positive order were issued.

The natural consequence was to exasperate the Government, aggravate the ill-feeling between the authorities and the Armenians, and cause the issue of an order forbidding meetings and speeches. The principal leaders of the discontented Armenian party are M. Muggerditch Portukalian, the Inspector of the Ararat Society's schools, and M. Dajad Beylerian, a teacher in these schools. The latter is talkative, and without ballast, and has on more than one occasion made speeches of a seditious character which might justly arouse the indignation of the authorities; and the former, though I do not believe that he intends any disloyalty, yet is devoid of tact, and, being one of those who believe the Turkish Government to be incapable of improvement, allows his prejudices to appear, and makes no effort to conciliate the authorities. I understand that the Armenian Patriarch has summoned both these individuals to Constantinople, and I do not think it is at all to be regretted that they should be removed from a place where their continued presence would only act as a perpetual irritant.

But although I think the Armenians have been to blame, yet I must also say that the authorities have, in my opinion, exaggerated the significance of the attitude of the Armenians. They seem to be under the impression that there is an active conspiracy going on to shake off the Turkish dominion, and speak of their knowledge of the possession of large quantities of arms by the Armenians in the town and rural districts. Now, I do not believe that there is any thought at present of rising on the part of the Armenians. A year ago I would not have said the same thing, but I am inclined to believe that latterly the Armenians have failed to receive the encouragement which they expected from Russia, and are therefore convincing themselves that the idea of obtaining an improvement in their condition by the strong hand is illusive. I believe that Réouf Bey, the President of the Court of Appeal at Van, and Acting Adlié Mufettish, is answerable for a good deal of the suspicions of the Government. He appears to me to be of an intriguing disposition, very jealous of foreign influence, and very much opposed to the idea of any advance in the position of the Christians; and I have reason to believe that he has written reports to Constantinople giving most disquieting accounts of the temper of the Christians and the danger to be apprehended from them. I know he has influenced the Local Government in this sense, and the Vali, whether he believes the things that are told him or not, is not strong enough to make a stand against the suggestions of Réouf Bey and others who hold similar views.

The Armenians among themselves are much divided at present by party feelings and mutual jealousies, caused principally by petty intrigues for position and offices. The result is that Karakeen Vartabed, the present Arajnaut, who is a sensible man, and has tried to prevent the Armenians from acting so as to arouse the suspicions or enmity of the authorities, has tendered his resignation, but I am not yet aware whether it has been accepted. I should regret it if he were to vacate his position, as I am afraid he would be succeeded by a nominee of the more violent party, who are not pleased with his endeavours to keep on good terms with the Government and Moslems.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 122.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 808.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 14, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Clayton, reporting a raid made by Persian troops on Turkish territory.

Your Lordship will see that Captain Clayton suggests that the invaders may have been Kurds, acting as irregular troops, under Persian authority, in connection with the operations stated to have been undertaken by the Persian Government against the Shikak tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 30.)
Sir, *Van, August 30, 1881.*

I HAVE to report that intelligence reached the Government last week that Persian troops had crossed the frontier in the neighbourhood of Gevver, and had destroyed seven or eight villages on Turkish soil.

In consequence of this report, Lieutenant-General Moussa Pasha left Van the day before yesterday to proceed to the spot. The Government information distinctly stated that the incursion was made by Persian troops, who retired again after laying waste the villages; but private sources of information would indicate that the perpetrators of the acts were Kurdish bands from the Persian side. The truth may very possibly be that they were Kurds acting as irregular troops, under Persian authority, as it is unquestionable that the operations against the Shikaks have been undertaken by order of the Persian Government.

I have informed the Ambassador of the circumstances by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 123.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 810.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 14, 1881.*

I CAUSED the case of the Armenian emigrants who had returned to Sinope from Soukoum Kalé, reported in my despatch No. 745 of the 29th ultimo, to be brought to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have represented to his Excellency the hardship of the Porte's decision to forbid their disembarkation, once they had actually returned to their native country, without the means of going back to the Caucasus.

Assim Pasha, in reply, stated that they had but themselves to thank for their present position, after the positive warning they received from the Ottoman authorities before leaving. He added that it was owing to foreign instigation that they had emigrated to the Caucasus, and that it was incumbent on the instigators of the emigration to provide for their wants, rather than saddle the Porte with fresh burdens.

His Excellency agreed, however, to speak to the Minister of the Interior on the subject, in view, it is hoped, of authorizing the settlement of the returned emigrants in the districts which they formerly occupied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 124.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 811.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 14, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 586 of the 20th July last, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Beyrout, reporting an act of violence committed on property belonging to the Church Missionary Society at Nazareth, as well as on the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the district of Acre, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in reply to my representations, the Sublime Porte has ordered inquiries to be made into the question, and on the 20th ultimo instructed the Vali of Syria to have the matter properly dealt with.

I may also mention that at my request his Grace Mgr. Vannutelli, the Apostolic Delegate at Constantinople, has written to the head of the Catholic community in Syria with reference to this case, and that the latter has promised to restrain the fanaticism of the inculpated parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 125.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 813.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 17, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to Major Trotter by Captain Clayton, reporting on his recent journey in the Vilayet of Bitlis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 33.)

Sir, *Van, August* 18, 1881.

IN continuation of my Report on the tour I have recently completed in the Bitlis Vilayet, I have the honour to state that I started from Bitlis on the 26th July to proceed to Sert, where I arrived on the 28th. The road is rough, and passes through a mountainous, thinly-inhabited country.

At Sert I learned that though there is lawlessness in some parts of the sandjak, yet the general condition has improved under the administration of the present Mutessarif, Salih Pasha. There exists, however, considerable apprehension among the people on account of the release and expected return of the Kurdish Chiefs arrested by Abédine Pasha. The notorious Mousti Kotto, with the Rshkotanli Kurds, is now infesting the road between Sert and Diarbekir, near the Batman Su, and plundering travellers. He is also said to have lately forced an Armenian priest to marry a woman, the widow of an Armenian friend of his, to another Armenian who objected and was already married. The Mutessarif told me, however, that he intended shortly to march against him.

During a recent visit of the Vali of Bitlis to Sert, demands for arrears of Bedel-i-Askerié were made, similar to those already reported from Bitlis, and some of the principal Christians were imprisoned until the money was paid. A fresh valuation of property for taxation was also in progress in the Sert Sandjak; but in this case the officials charged with the duty did not visit the different villages, but remained in Sert, and made the valuation by simply adding a certain proportion to the old estimate.

Complaints were also made to me that several of the Mudirs who had been appointed under the new system, being Kurds, oppressed the Christians, exacting money, forcibly converting women to Islam, and in some cases actually plundering Christian villages by force of arms.

From Sert my wish was to proceed to Mush, viâ Sassoun, but great doubt was expressed whether it would be possible, both on account of the reported extreme badness of the roads and on account of the wildness of the population. As, however, I learned that the Mutessarif was encamped among the lower spurs of the mountains on the road I should have to take, I resolved to visit him and be guided as to my future movements by the information he could afford me.

I accordingly started from Sert on the 30th July, and proceeding in a north-westerly direction over the plain country, stopped for the night at the Armenian village of Berar, about six hours from Sert. Berar contains about thirty houses and seems prosperous, the villagers having last year built a new church and opened a school this year. They said they were under the protection of Hassan Agha, a powerful Kurdish Chief, who lives in a village about a mile off. At one time they suffered much from the oppression of Fettah Bey, of Zokh, but he was arrested and sent to Constantinople by Abédine Pasha, and Hassan Agha has since protected them. The next day, passing by Zokh, I arrived at Hazo, the seat of the Kaimakam of Sassoun, a caza of the Sandjak of Sert. Hazo is situated in a gorge among the southern spurs of the mountains, looking over the plain, and contains from 250 to 300 houses, of which about 150 are Armenian. It was, however, at one time a place of considerably greater importance, and contains the ruins of an old castle. There are salt-works in the valley below the town. In the evening the Armenian schoolmaster came to visit me, and said that the principal Armenians had wished to come and see me, but were afraid to do so, and had deputed him to explain their condition to me. In a future paragraph I shall sum up the information obtained as to the state of this part of the country.

The next day I proceeded to the camp of the Mutessarif, some little distance further in the mountains. He had come up here with 2 companies of infantry (about 80 men), a few troopers, and a mountain gun, for the purpose of trying to collect arrears of taxes from the Kurds, who had paid none for ten years. I fancy, however, his success had as yet not been great, as I heard, though not from himself, that the Kurds had threatened in some places to fire on him if he approached their villages with any such intention, and he was not strong enough to provoke hostilities. The Pasha himself told me that £T. 10,000 were owing by the Kurds, and that some of them had expressed their willingness to pay if Government would, in its turn, extend its protection to them, the present condition of the country being very bad. Nearly every valley in the mountains has its own tribe of Kurds who are at feud with all the others, so that they are blockaded in their own valleys and dare not leave them, and the authority of Government is practically non-existent, and is looked on by the Kurds at present as a tyrant to be resisted at all costs.

With reference to my further movements, the Pasha said that the road to Mush, though very bad, was still practicable, and that he would give me a sufficient escort. Accordingly, after remaining with him one day, I started on the 3rd August with an escort of Kurds on foot in addition to mounted zaptiehs. The road led nearly due north, a little to the west of the Meleto Dagh, the highest peak in the range west of the road between Bitlis and Sert. Mounting the ridge which bounds on the west the valley in which the Pasha's camp was situated, the road passes a small district in a valley entirely inhabited by Armenians. The principal people came to meet me at a spring where I made my midday halt, having received notice of my coming from the Pasha.

From the information obtained from them and from other quarters during my journey through Sassoun, I have ascertained the following facts as regards the condition of the Christians in the districts of Sassoun and Modkan:—

1. Every Christian family belongs to one or more Aghas, and pays annually to each Agha 100 piastres.

2. Every Agha has the right to sell any Christian belonging to him to another Agha, who requires the Christian to provide the purchase-money for himself. Families are not sold together, but individually, according to the pleasure of the Aghas.

3. Without the consent of his Agha no Christian can buy or sell houses or land, or even provide himself with a new suit of clothes.

4. A Christian cannot marry without the leave of his Agha, and has to give presents on the occasion.

5. If Aghas are at enmity with one another, they plunder each other's Christians.

6. If a Christian is killed, and information is given to Government, no steps are taken to punish the murderer.

7. If a Christian wishes to emigrate with his family, he cannot sell his land or other property, but must leave all to his Agha.

8. The price paid for a Christian depends on his wealth, as a man well-to-do is of course able to provide a larger sum and give more valuable presents when the Agha thinks fit to require them.

In some parts, as far as I could understand, the Agha of a Christian protects him from ill-treatment by other Kurds, but in others it appears that, as long as the Agha gets his own dues, he does not trouble himself with what others may do to his Christian clients. On the whole, it is abundantly clear that the Christians are in a state of unmitigated serfage.

I made inquiries as to how it was that, when an Agha wanted money, he did not directly demand it from his Christian serf instead of going through the roundabout process of selling him to another Agha, who then obtained the purchase-money from the Christian, and the explanation given was that an Agha would not make arbitrary demands, but that when a man was bought it was considered a right that he should provide the money, the Agha saying, "You have been sold to me, and are now under my protection, and therefore you must provide the money for the privilege you have obtained."

The people also said that, on account of the attitude of the Kurds, the Mutessarif was obliged to obtain most, if not the whole, of the supplies for his force from the Christian villages, which pressed hardly upon them.

The night of the 3rd I spent at the Kurdish village of Jemalan, near the village of Sasun, in the Sandjak of Mush. As an instance of the state of things, I may mention that the Agha of Jemalan invited my Kurdish escort to sleep in his house, but they said they were afraid to do so, lest they should be murdered, and preferred to bivouac round my tent. The Christian Mudir of the district I had passed through (Khavar), who had

accompanied me thus far, did not dare stay the night at all, but made the best of his way home.

The Agha of Jemalan, an old man, came to talk to me, and said he wished a good Government could be established, as the present condition of the country weighed heavily on them. He added, "The fault lies with the Pashas; were I to plunder a dozen villages, and a Pasha came to inquire into it, if I gave him £T. 50, he would make me a great man, and I could do what I liked."

In outward appearance the villages in Sassoun, both Kurdish and Christian, contrast favourably with the squalid, parched, and treeless villages in the low country. The houses are neatly built of stone, and are dotted about among trees and green fields, with hedges of creepers, wherever spots of level ground are found, in the valleys and on the flanks of the red and brown mountains which rise above them. The Kaïmakam of Hazo told me that the Kurds could very well pay their taxes if they chose, as they were well off, having abundance of honey, fruit, and flocks, and that they hoard their money underground. The Christians, however, said that they were gradually getting poorer and poorer from the exactions of the Kurds, and that the inhabitants of four villages near Sasún (150 families), have emigrated *en masse*, and others were following their example.

From Jemalan the road mounts 4,000 feet, and descends again 3,000 feet to the Valley of Shattak, where I spent the night at an Armenian village named Germav. Here the inhabitants complained bitterly of the depredations of the Kurds. First the Aghas of Sasún come and take what they want, then those of Pirmuschen, then a small ashiret to the north-west, the Kirikli, and, lastly, the Békirauli, a nomad tribe from the neighbourhood of Diarbekir. The people of Shattak are sold like those of Sassoun. The priest said he was sold this year for 1,500 piastres, which the purchaser took from him, and other things besides. Many families have emigrated.

The Kurds I had obtained at Jemalan as an escort begged to be allowed to return before getting half-way to Germav, being afraid of the Békirauli. Thinking that, if they were so frightened, they would be of little use, I let them go, and went on with my two zaptiehs. The people of Germav informed me that Government had forbidden the Békirauli to come to these regions, but they had not obeyed, and it was reported that troops were to be sent against them.

On the 5th August I crossed the ridge separating the Shattak Valley from Mush Plain. On the top I was met by the Chief of the Békirauli, who complained that Government were going to send troops against his people. I told him that, if this were so, it was because his people behaved so badly, and advised him to take his tribe quietly home again. I made inquiries afterwards, and was informed that there was no necessity for these Békirauli to migrate in the summer, as they had arable lands near Diarbekir, and that they brought very small flocks with them, but returned with large ones, which they had obtained by plunder. On the descent towards Mush I came upon a party of the Békirauli, who had come down and made an attack on a mill belonging to the village of Havadorik, and who decamped on my approach. I reached Mush the same day.

The population of Sassoun and Modkan, situated in the three Sandjaks of Bitlis, Sert, and Mush, may be reckoned approximatively as—Armenians, 30,000; Kurds, 20,000; Yezidis, 4,500; and Nestorians, 800. This estimate is, however, subject to correction, and includes districts, under the Kaïmakamliks of Sassoun and Modkan, not strictly comprised under those appellations, but in which the system of serfage generally prevails.

In some parts, as in the district of Khawar, the Christians are in compact communities, surrounded by Kurds; in others, the Kurdish and Christian villages are intermingled.

At Mush I learned that the disturbances among the Hassananli Kurds near Melasgird had been quieted, nineteen of the ringleaders having been brought as prisoners to Mush. It appears that the quarrel was not about a girl, as at first reported, but about some land. The right to this was in dispute, and the Assistant Arazi Mudir of Mush, Feth-Ullah Effendi, having been bribed by both sides, had given each side papers in their favour, and hence the fight arose.

There is no Mutessarif at present at Mush, Toussoun Pasha, who has been nominated, being detained in Hakkiari, awaiting the arrival of the Vali. The Mulasseheji, who is acting, had gone to settle the Hassananli affair, and I did not see him. I am confirmed in the impression I obtained on my first visit to Mush that the Moslems there are more than usually fanatic, and the Government very corrupt and bad.

I left Mush on the 8th August, and proceeded to Irnerd, a village on Mush Plain, for the purpose of taking squeezes of some cuneiform inscriptions, to which my attention had been directed by Mr. Rassam. There I learned that the previous week two Armenians had been murdered in Gars, a neighbouring village. The people were afraid to say by whom the crime had been committed, but I gathered that they were believed to be men belonging to Mirza Bey, the Kaïmakam of Modkan. They came to the village, and wanted to carry off the wives of the two Armenians, and shot them when they resisted. Another Armenian was murdered about the same time near the Monastery of Surp Garabed. I was told that Government was so apathetic that now, if a man saw his brother murdered before his eyes, he would not dare to give information, as Government would do nothing, and the criminals would revenge themselves on him for giving information.

Mirza Bey, the Kaïmakam of Modkan, is a notorious character; he belongs to the Kurdish family of Aland Bey, and some years ago burned the Kurdish village of Noeh and all its inhabitants, and was sent to Constantinople, and condemned to penal servitude in the Arsenal; but he has now returned, and was last year appointed Kaïmakam of Modkan.

The villagers said that almost nightly Kurds came down from the hills and carried off corn, &c., from the villages on the plain, and often burned what they could not carry away.

From Mush plain I proceeded through Boulanyk to Melasgird. Mush Plain and Boulanyk may be regarded as the granaries of this part of the country, and this year the harvest is very plentiful.

Great complaints were, however, made of the exactions of Government. For instance, during the famine, the poor who were in distress in many places opened the Government anbars and divided the corn among themselves. During the past winter Government officials came and required this corn to be paid for, at the rate of 240 piastres the Boulanyk kilé (2½ Constantinople kilés). This is the very highest price to which corn went during the famine, its present price being from 60 to 70 piastres the Boulanyk kilé. In some cases a considerable proportion of the Government corn had been already transported to Akhlat for shipment to Van before the anbars were opened by the poor, but no account was taken of this, but payment for the whole amount originally in the anbars was required. Some idea of the sums required may be gathered from the following figures:—

From village of Hanzé Sheikh, 150 houses, 163,000 piastres; Shirwan Sheikh, 115 houses, 90,000 piastres; Jop, 270 houses, 80,000 piastres; Jonjulu, 175 houses, 46,000 piastres; Kuragol, 120 houses, 46,000 piastres. At Hanzé Sheikh one or two men had their feet put into the fire to make them pay. When people had no money, their goods were seized at a very low estimate, such as a buffalo, worth 1,000 piastres, for 150 piastres; an araba, costing 1,000 piastres, for 100 piastres; a horse for 50 piastres; a sheep for 5 piastres, &c. Many persons were said to be utterly ruined.

Besides this, troops and officials passing through require to be supported gratuitously, and often demand money besides.

Complaint was also made that Government has lately required the people to convey the produce of the tithes to Akhlat, Bitlis, or Mush gratuitously, which was never done before, and that demands are now being made on the people to supply the deficit for the last five years in the amount delivered into the anbars at head-quarters as compared with that shown in the accounts of the officials who measured the corn in the villages, the difference having been really stolen by officials and others *in transitu*.

Many complaints were also made of robbery by the Kurds and Circassians inhabiting the hills. The Circassians had come since the war, and had been permitted by the Government to establish themselves in various localities, driving out the former possessors.

From Melasgird I proceeded to Arjesh by Patnotz. Patnotz belongs to the Sandjak of Bayazid, and here the people complained that Government had demanded the vouchers for taxes paid in past years, and on their not being forthcoming, required fresh payment. It appears that everywhere the Government is pressing the people very hard for money, though in different localities different expedients are being employed.

I arrived in Arjesh on the 13th August. Here it was said that the Kurds were very troublesome, especially the Adamanli Kurds in the Zilan Valley north of Arjesh. All the energies of Government are, however, devoted to the collection of money, and no attempt to keep the Kurds in order is made.

I learned, in Arjesh, that the previous week the Jelali Kurds had crossed the frontier from Persia and attacked the Haidranli on an old feud. Troops had been sent from Van, and a collision had taken place in which two Turkish soldiers were killed, but the Jelali seem to have been driven across the frontier again.

I reached Van on the 16th August, but I regret to say that I understand that a great deal of plundering by Kurds is going on.

There is one observation I would make with regard to the Kurdish plunderings, namely, that no doubt the temptation is very great. As a general rule the fertile lowlands are in possession of the Armenians, while the Kurds have only the barren and unfruitful hills, and doubtless sometimes are suffering actual want. It might be a question whether, if a fair and just system of taxation were introduced, a contribution, something in the nature of a poor-rate, might not be levied on the proprietors of the lowlands for the relief of distress in the hills, but of course at present the burdens of the Christians are already too onerous, and that the Kurdish depredations are not caused solely by want is proved by the fact that they often burn what they cannot carry away.

I have obtained other information, topographical, statistical, &c., which will form the subject of other Reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 126.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 815. Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Therapia, September 19, 1881.*

I THEN asked permission to revert to the Armenian question, and I repeated to His Majesty all the arguments and considerations I had already submitted to Said Pasha, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 723 of the 23rd ultimo, and ended by observing that I had brought this subject to His Majesty's notice on the first occasion I had the honour of entering his presence, but that nearly three months had elapsed since then, and that the condition of the Armenian provinces had daily been going from bad to worse.

The Sultan, who had listened with great patience to my remarks, observed in reply that there was a great deal of truth in what I had said, and that he was very anxious to do what had been suggested. Unfortunately there was a terrible dearth of able administrators in Turkey, a defect which his new educational establishments would eventually remedy. He thought, however, the idea of sending a High Commissioner into the eastern provinces of Asia Minor was an excellent one, and he would have already carried it into effect, were it not that his attention had been so entirely absorbed by the financial question. Moreover, these Egyptian troubles had still further distracted his thoughts. Before, however, another month was past, he could assure me such an appointment as I had indicated would be made.

Although, of course, the efficacy of this latter measure entirely depends upon the character and ability of the person nominated, and the extent of the powers with which he may be entrusted, we may, I think, fairly regard this declaration of the Sovereign as a step in advance.

No. 127.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 817.)
(Extract.) *Therapia, September 19, 1881.*

I HAVE undertaken to assure the Sultan, in your Lordship's name, that Her Majesty's Government have been also much gratified by the announcement he made to me in regard to the proximate nomination of a High Commissioner for the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and that the only remark your Lordship would be inclined to make would be that the appointment should be made as quickly as possible, and that the person on should be one of such recognized talent and high character that his name should be a guarantee for the fulfilment of His Majesty's beneficent intentions towards his Armenian subjects.

The French Ambassador is to see the Sultan to-day, and has promised to make similar representations to His Majesty.

No. 128.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 821. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 20, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 776 of the 29th ultimo, on the subject of the proposed railway from Constantinople to Bagdad, I have been informed confidentially that the Tophane Commission of Public Works, having reported favourably on the scheme, referred it to the Minister of War, who has returned it to the Commission, with his observations on the subject from a strategical point of view. Thence it went to the Sublime Porte, with a recommendation that full information should be obtained with regard to Dr. Strousberg (who is supposed to be supported by M. Bleichroeder) from Berlin and Bucharest.

The Ottoman Agents have reported from these places that Dr. Strousberg's antecedents are unsatisfactory, and his solvency dubious.

Perhaps it might be as well, notwithstanding the unfavourable indications the Ottoman Government have received in regard to Dr. Strousberg, if inquiries were instituted at Berlin as to the degree of interest Prince Bismarck may take in the affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 129.

E *Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)*

(No. 476.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 21, 1881.*

I ASKED M. de Giers this afternoon whether he had had time to read through the record of the Earl of Dufferin's conversation with the Turkish Prime Minister relative to the condition of the Asiatic provinces of the Empire, and the reforms which are indispensable for their improvement, and which I communicated to his Excellency in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 824 of the 31st ultimo, as I had the honour to report to you in my despatch No. 465 of the 14th instant.

M. de Giers replied that he had done so, and that his views and those of M. de Novikow were in harmony with those expressed by Her Majesty's Ambassador; and that the Imperial Government especially approved of the manner in which his Excellency had submitted them to the Porte. With regard to the choice of a Commissioner to administer the provinces in question, M. de Giers said, with reference to the name of Moukhtar Pasha which had been mentioned by the Earl of Dufferin in conversation with M. Onou, that he thought Reouf Pasha would perhaps be a fitter person, as being very conciliatory and less fanatical, and more tolerant a Mussulman than Moukhtar, who, he said, however, was a very clever man, and had a greater knowledge of the country than Reouf. He said it was a difficult matter to know whom to select, but, judging from his remarks, his opinion was evidently much in favour of Reouf.

Your Lordship may recollect that Reouf Pasha was at St. Petersburgh in May last, having been sent by the Sultan as Special Ambassador to congratulate His Majesty the Emperor Alexander III on his accession to the throne.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 130.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 679.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September 28, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 795, Confidential, of the 19th instant, containing an account of the first meeting of the Ambassadors for the discussion of the Armenian question. I have to express, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, their entire approval of your Excellency's proceedings on that occasion, as well as their appreciation of the able manner in which you explained their views to your colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 131.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 112.)

My Lord, *Tehran, August* 18, 1881.

THE circumstances attending the recent capture of Hamzah Agha, one of the ring-leaders of the Kurdish outbreak of last year, appear to have been in the first instance inaccurately represented to the Persian Government.

It was stated that a body of irregular Kurdish horse had been sent by Hassan Ali Khan, the Governor of Souj Boulak, to intercept Hamzah Agha on his passage through that district, and that after a stout resistance he and several of his relatives and followers had been seized and put to death.

It now seems, however, from more recent information, that Hassan Ali Khan, acting in concert with the Cazi of Souj Boulak, who was formerly an intimate friend of Hamzah Agha, had given assurances to the latter that if he presented himself before the authorities of Souj Boulak they would not allow him to be molested in any way, and would undertake to intercede on his behalf with the Shah, and obtain His Majesty's pardon for his participation in the Kurdish depredations of last year. In order to give a more solemn character to these assurances, they were transmitted to him with a Koran bearing the Governor's seal.

Hamzah Agha having agreed to come in, a tent was prepared by the Persian authorities for his reception near the town. A party of fifty Kurds under a certain Serdar Bey were at the same time placed in concealment near the spot, with orders to attack the unsuspecting Chief and his followers on a signal being given them to do so.

Hamzah Agha had left most of his people some distance off from the place of meeting, and came on with only a few attendants. He was received by Hassan Ali Khan, who repeated the assurances he had already given, and shortly afterwards the Governor having withdrawn from the tent on some pretext, the signal was given, and Hamzah Agha, his two sons, and several other relations and followers were overpowered and put to death.

The conduct of Hassan Ali Khan in this matter has caused considerable surprise, as he was for many years Persian Minister in London and Paris, and it was not, therefore, believed that he would act in this barbarous and treacherous manner. His friends, however, suggest that he was not acting without authority, and that at all events the Ameer Nizam, Governor-General of Azerbaijan, was privy to the whole proceeding.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 132.

Consul-General Abbott to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Tabreez, September* 9, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that an American missionary at Bitlis wrote some months ago to one of his colleagues in Persia that, from his acquaintance with the sentiments of the people in that large Kurdish city, he could affirm that, in case of war between Turkey and Greece, there would be another Kurdish invasion of Persia for the purpose of recovering all the territory between Bitlis and the Lake of Oroomiah.

The settlement of the Greek question happily averted this danger; but I hear from other sources that the Turkish Kurds have not renounced a project which they hope later to carry out in retaliation for the exactions and cruelties to which their brethren and co-religionists have been subjected in Persia.

A moment of unusual weakness and embarrassment on the part of Turkey would probably be selected by the Kurds for executing such a plan. The Kurdish rising last year occurred whilst the Porte was grappling with the Montenegrin difficulty.

If the Turkish Government become sufficiently strong to uphold her legitimate rights against foreign intrigues and foes, the dangers which menace her tranquillity and that of Persia may yet be obviated; and when she is in a position to maintain order amongst the Kurds, the relations between the latter and the Armenians will be doubtless established on a more satisfactory footing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 133.

Consul-General Abbott to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord, *Tabreez, September* 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, reporting statements made to me by my Turkish colleague regarding the desire expressed by Armenians and Kurds to emigrate in large numbers from Persia to Turkey or Russia, and the outrages alleged to have been committed by the Persian army operating against the Shekak tribes upon Armenian and Kurdish non-combatants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Consul-General Abbott to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 38.)

Sir, *Tabreez, September* 9, 1881.

I HAD this day the honour to send your Excellency the following telegram in cipher:—

"Turkish colleague informs me that a large number of Armenian and Kurdish families of Persian nationality desire to settle in Turkish territory or else to emigrate to Russia; that Persian army operating against Shekaks have committed terrible outrages upon Armenian and Kurdish populations, and that mission of Foreign Office Agent to frontier is in consequence of these occurrences."

With reference to the above, I further beg to report that the Turkish Consul-General, Behdjet Effendi, stated to me yesterday that 4,000 Armenians and Kurds of Persian nationality had recently quitted their homes in the districts of Khoi and Salmas, and resorted in a mass to the Turkish frontier. Thence they sent a deputation with a petition to the Pasha of Van, stating that they could no longer tolerate the oppression and cruelty of the Persian Government. They therefore entreated the Pasha to allow them to settle within the Persian border. If their request were refused, they intended emigrating to Russia.

Upon this the Pasha of Van dispatched to the frontier three delegates. One of these held a civil, the other a military appointment, whilst the third belonged to the local Court of Equity and Justice. He also telegraphed to the Turkish Ambassador at Tehran, requesting his Excellency to represent to the Persian Government the advisability of their also sending some competent officials to the frontier, to meet the Turkish delegates and discuss the question at issue.

About ten days ago the Saad-el-Mulk, accompanied by the Sadeck-ed-Dowleh, the Ameen-el-Vezareh, and a staff of subaltern employés, left Tabreez for Khoi. It was given out that the Persian Government had appointed the two first-named officers as Commissioners for the rectification of the Kotoor frontier, but my Turkish colleague affirms that their mission has wholly reference to the occurrences reported in my telegram.

Behdjet Effendi went on to say that the welfare of the Armenian and Kurdish populations had been completely overlooked during the recent campaign against the Shekaks. He observed that the Porte was co-operating with Persia to punish a Kurdish tribe who for years past had been a source of infinite trouble to both frontiers; but that instead of confining themselves to the object in view, the Persian soldiery had been allowed to plunder and massacre Armenian and Kurdish non-combatants. Peaceable villagers had been put to death and their property carried off by the Persians, simply because they were Kurds and Soonis. Armenians had undergone the same fate upon the ground that they secretly favoured the Kurds. Nine villages, either Kurdish or Armenian, had been destroyed in this way; the loss of life and property had been considerable.

I requested my colleague to specify the names of the villages and the number of the victims. He replied that he hoped soon to be able to furnish me with the necessary details. He could, however, assure me that the Turkish Ambassador at Tehran had addressed a note to the Persian Government on the subject, and that unless steps were taken to remedy this deplorable condition of things serious complications might arise.

Such is the substance of Behdjet Effendi's remarks. The intelligence he has received

appears to deserve the careful investigation of the Persian Government, but I should prefer to be in possession of a few more facts before passing judgment upon the conduct of the Persian Commanders and the army, whose operations the Ameer-i-Nizam is directing upon the borders of Selmas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 134.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 826.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 23, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 760 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Major Trotter, respecting the recall of the Mutessarif of Bayazid.

I do not imagine that this individual will be reappointed.

I am endeavouring to induce the Sublime Porte to maintain in his place Shametdin Bey, the President of the Civil Section of the Court of First Instance at Erzeroum, of whom Captain Everett speaks highly, and am remonstrating against the appointment of Riza Bey to the post of Public Prosecutor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Sagher, District of Tortoum, September 9, 1881.*

I BEG to inform you that I received information yesterday, from two independent and reliable sources, that, in consequence of a recent telegram from Constantinople, the Mutessarif of Bayazid has been ordered by the Vali to come immediately to Erzeroum to answer to certain charges which have been lodged against him at Constantinople.

Mehemet Ali Bey, Commandant of the Bayazid garrison, has been appointed to look after the district in his absence.

It is to be sincerely hoped that this suspension of the Mutessarif, though in appearance temporary and dependent on his ability to exculpate himself, may in reality be but the first step to a final dismissal, not only from this post, but from the service, for there can be no doubt that wherever he goes he will prove a scourge to the inhabitants.

I can give you no further intelligence on this subject at this moment, but the matter being of great importance, I may possibly remain within hail of Erzeroum, instead of going to Ispir; at all events, I shall delay my departure from this district for another fortnight.

I regret to have to tell you that an attempt is being made to dislodge from his post Shametdin Bey, President of the Civil Section of the Court of First Instance at Erzeroum. I have already mentioned this official to you in my despatch No. 3 of the 18th February, and I have had no reason to change my opinion of him since. His fearless impartiality, whether in the matter of Christians engaged in suits against Turks, or of private individuals against the Government, has brought upon him the hatred of a fanatical section of the Government (headed by the Vali), which is making every effort to overthrow him.

He deserves every support, for he is, so far as I can judge, a fair type of the sort of man that we wish to see in the Courts of Justice. Shametdin Bey is, I believe, a candidate for the post of Inspector-General of Tribunals, practically vacant through the ill-health of Nafiz Pasha, who is now at Constantinople. Young and active, he would be very influential for good in such a position. It would be greatly in the interests of the vilayet if he could obtain it.

Alexin Effendi, the Assistant Public Prosecutor, has been dismissed. Yesterday I received intelligence that Riza Bey, a member of the Court of First Instance at Erzeroum, has been appointed in his place. Riza Bey is quite unfitted for the post, which I am given to understand he procured by payment at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 135.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 829.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 24, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, describing a riot which has taken place at Tireboli, and complaining of the incompetency of the local authorities of that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 10, 1881.*

ON the 25th ultimo an incident took place at Tireboli, the faithful details of which came to my knowledge only to-day, owing to the want of steam communication with that town.

A question between numerous relatives was being tried at the "Hukumét," when the litigants indulged between them in a free fight, in which weapons were used, though the result was only a slight wound to one of the party. As there was no available police force, the Government officials were so frightened that they ran away.

The Kaïmakam took refuge in the telegraph office, the Mufti jumped over a wall and concealed himself in a private house, and the Cadi hid himself in the coal-cellar.

The Government-house being in the hands of the rioters, they rushed to the prison, which was guarded only by five zaptiehs (the whole available force), and set at liberty a few of their partizans who were confined in it for the very question in litigation.

The incident had no further consequences, for the only reason that the actors had no other object in view, but the population was seized with a panic, and alarming telegrams were transmitted to the Porte and to the Governor-General at Trebizond.

Apik Effendi, the Public Prosecutor, was immediately dispatched to Tireboli with a force of fifteen zaptiehs, and caused the arrest of the persons who had been rescued from prison, as well as that of the two principals in the assault, who are going to be tried.

The occurrence at Tireboli is a striking illustration of my statements in former reports, that there is only the shadow of a Government in the Vilayet of Trebizond, so far as the cazas are concerned.

It pleases a few individuals to have their own way in the very Government Palace; there is no police force to prevent them from carrying out their design; the authorities are awe-struck and fly for their lives, leaving the whole population without protection and at the mercy of any one who may choose to assume power.

Yussuf Pasha has informed me that the Kaïmakam of Tireboli is to be dismissed from his post in consequence of his conduct in the case in question, but I think that the Cadi and the Mufti ought to be similarly punished.

As I stated in my report No. 48, dated Tireboli, October 11th, 1880, the whole population of that district complained of the latter.

A Mussulman of Tireboli, who is confined to bed in consequence of a beating from a certain Keledjogloo Kiamil, has telegraphed to the authorities at Trebizond complaining that his assailant, after having been arrested, was released without trial and without bail.

On Apik Effendi having asked for explanations, the Cadi answered that the charge against Keledjogloo Kiamil was true, but that he had not been apprehended, and that he was nowhere to be found.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 136.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 3.*)

(No. 831. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 25, 1881.*

AMONGST the persons specially designated by Sir Charles Wilson as being principal objects of hatred and fear to the Armenian populations over whom they preside was the Procureur-General of Sivas. I have caused representations to be made to the Minister of Justice in the sense of Colonel Wilson's complaints against this man, and I have now the satisfaction of informing your Lordship that he will be removed from his present post.

The official in question is a brother of the actual Minister of Public Works, and, as your Lordship will perceive from Sir Alfred Sandison's report of his conversation with the Minister of Justice, which I beg to inclose, the Porte is anxious to obtain another berth for him, which I have reason to hope will be in a locality where he will have fewer opportunities of rendering himself obnoxious to the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Memorandum by Sir A. Sandison.

(Confidential.)

I HAVE the honour to report that, in pursuance of the representations which I had been directed to make, Djevdet Pasha, the Minister of Justice, authorized me yesterday to inform your Excellency that he will gladly recall the Procureur-General of Sivas, with the reservation, however, of first providing some other post for him in the country, from a feeling of deference for his brother, Hassan Fehmi Effendi, the Minister of Public Works.

His Excellency added that, so far at least, the Ministry of Justice had no reason to complain of the manner in which the Procureur had continued to discharge his public duties; but that, nevertheless, he would not take up the defence of this functionary in presence of the complaint against him which I had privately brought to his Excellency's knowledge.

Therapia, September 25, 1881.

No. 137.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 3.*)

(No. 834.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 25, 1881.*

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch to your Lordship No. 82 of the 28th June of last year, respecting the abduction by a certain Circassian, named Jambollit, of a Circassian woman and her two children, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Colonel Warlow, giving a résumé of the case, and reporting a conversation with Ghalib Pasha, the Vali, on the subject, in which he pointed out to his Excellency the fact that, even supposing the woman and her children were runaway slaves, their forcible abduction was clearly illegal, and that it was contrary to the first principles of justice and setting a premium upon crime to allow them to remain where they were.

His Excellency, as your Lordship will perceive, admitted that Colonel Warlow's remarks might be true, but stated that the Circassians were in the habit of seizing runaway slaves wherever they found them, and that, in his opinion, any attempt to recover the woman and children would be attended with great disturbance and probably bloodshed.

Colonel Warlow considers this supposition of the Vali erroneous, and is of opinion that, the abductor being a man of no influence, his arrest could be easily effected if the Kaimakam really wished it, but that this official is so weak, and has shown so much partiality in the conduct of this affair, that nothing can be done unless he is removed from office.

On receipt of this despatch I caused its substance to be communicated to Mahmoud Nedim, the Minister of the Interior, with the request that he would give the matter his best consideration and endeavour to have justice done.

His Excellency has pointed out to me in reply the great difficulty which would attend any attempt to rescue the woman and children from their present position, owing to the fact that the Imperial Government has, up to a certain point, always recognized the right of the Circassians to claim runaway slaves. His Excellency, however, added that the authorities did all they could when it was possible to put a stop to these abductions, and promised to instruct the competent authorities to use every effort to restore the woman and her children to their home, provided that it could be done without dangerous opposition on the part of the Circassians interested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Kastamuni, August 6, 1881.*

IN order that you may the more easily understand the circumstances which I am about to relate, I will begin by giving a résumé of the case with which they are connected.

2. In November 1879 a Circassian, named Ibrahim, complained that his wife and two female children had been forcibly carried off from his house in the Khudavendikyar Vilayet by Jambollit and Mahmoud, Circassians living near Dusdscheh, in the Vilayet of Kastamuni. On this complaint being brought to the notice of His Highness Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, he issued warrants for the arrest of the two offenders, who meanwhile had escaped from his jurisdiction.

Mr. Gilbertson's despatch having attracted the attention of Lord Salisbury, he sent instructions to Sir A. H. Layard that the case must not be allowed to drop, and immediately on my arrival in Anatolia in May 1880 I was ordered to take it up.

In June 1880 I visited Kastamuni and spoke to the Vali on the subject, and in July went to Dusdscheh, where I tried hard to obtain the release of the woman and her children, but without success.

In November 1880 I heard that the woman had escaped, and was with the Kaimakam of Dusdscheh, to whom I telegraphed, and on receiving his answer that such was really the case, I called on His Highness Ahmed Vefyk, who thereupon sent orders for her immediate transmission to Brussa; these orders were not obeyed, and he eventually gave me to understand that he was not in a position to enforce them.

3. During the last fortnight I have been informed by the Mutessarif of Boli, and by his Excellency Ghalib Pasha, Vali of Kastamuni, that Ibrahim's wife and children have been handed back to Jambollit (Mahmoud being dead) on his giving security that he would produce them whenever required to do so. This step was taken on the recommendation of the Kaimakam of Dusdscheh, who reported that the woman had given in a petition admitting that she and her children were slaves, and praying that their freedom might be granted. On the 23rd March, 1881, his Excellency Ghalib Pasha wrote to the Porte (Home Department) stating that the woman and children were, *primâ facie*, the slaves of Jambollit, and that the Vali of Khudavendikyar should be directed to send Ibrahim to Boli to prove that they were not slaves if he could. No answer has been received to this communication.

4. I pointed out to his Excellency Ghalib Pasha that, even supposing the woman and children to have been runaway slaves, their forcible abduction from the Khudavendikyar Vilayet was clearly an illegal act; that the first step should be to replace them where they were before the commission of that act; that to allow Jambollit to retain them and to shift the *onus probandi* from himself to Ibrahim was contrary to the first principles of justice, and an absolute premium on crime. His Excellency replied, in effect, that what I said might be all very true, but that the Circassians were in the habit of seizing escaped slaves wherever they found them, and that, in his opinion, any attempt to remove the woman and children would be resisted and would lead to bloodshed.

5. The whole affair is now at a dead-lock, as for Ibrahim to come to Boli is out of the question; he has no money, and his life would be in imminent danger were he so ill-advised as to show himself anywhere in the neighbourhood of Dusdscheh, where the Circassians can commit any crime with impunity.

6. From what I saw and heard during my visit to Dusdscheh last year, I believe that his Excellency the Vali, who has no personal knowledge of the place, is wrong in supposing

that the woman and children could not be removed without bloodshed; that the Turkish authorities there are weak, and the Circassians strong, is, unfortunately, quite true, but Jambollit is a man of no importance or influence, and several of the Beys there assured me that they would arrest him themselves at once if the Kaïmakam really wished it. They have no doubt a strong feeling on the subject of slavery, but it would not be difficult to show them that this particular case was not one which affected the general question.

7. The present Kaïmakam (Hassan), a poor weak creature, who, from the beginning, has sided with Jambollit, must be removed, if anything is to be done, and replaced by an able, cool-headed, and firm officer, who can be relied upon to carry out any orders which he may receive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 138.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 836.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 26, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson, reporting on the trial of some Armenians who were imprisoned after a riot which occurred in Sivas in October 1880.

The action of the authorities concerned in the trial has been so unsatisfactory that I have thought it advisable to address a note to the Sublime Porte on the subject, of which I inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 138.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 5, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a translation of a petition which I received last July from some of the Armenians who were imprisoned after the riot which occurred at Sivas in October 1880.

I delayed sending the petition forward at the time, as it was necessary to obtain more accurate information than I then possessed, and I was told that nothing would be done until after Bairam.

I understand that the appeal will now be heard at Constantinople, and, as the Armenians have been treated with great injustice and unfairness, I trust your Lordship may consider their case one which should be brought to the notice of the Porte.

The progress of the case has, from time to time, been reported to Her Majesty's Embassy by Lieutenant Chermside, C.M.G., and Mr. Richards, Assistant. I beg, however, to attach a statement of some of the principal points connected with the riot and the trials, as well as lists of the prisoners, with terms of imprisonment and punishment, and of the witnesses against them.

The action of Hakki Pasha has been throughout inconsistent with the new orders and regulations, which forbid a Vali to interfere in any way with the Courts of Law and administration of justice in his vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 138.

Petition addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

(Translation.)
Excellency,

WE, the Undersigned, have the honour of welcoming you back to Sivas, as the Representative of Great Britain, which benignantly watches over the well-being of the Armenians in Asia, in accordance with the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

The attack on the Vali's house at Sivas is known to you in detail, and needs no repetition. But as the Government arrested us, and subjected us to a preliminary examination, and condemned us without taking the slightest notice of the arguments in favour of our innocence, we appealed against this precipitate judgment to the Court of Istinaf in the hope of getting a hearing there, but as this Court also was under the influence of the Vali, and based its arguments on the statements of the false witnesses, we were once more condemned. We then, in our despair, applied to the Temyiz Court at Constantinople, with what result we know not.

We therefore take the liberty of begging your Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, to consider our wretched condition, and to help us from the misfortunes and the losses which the Local Government intends unjustly to bring upon us. The uncertainty of our future renders us desperate, for our families are dependent on the profits of our daily labour.

Have the kindness then, Excellency, to forward this petition to the proper quarters, and, by having justice done to us, assure us our personal freedom.

Sivas, $\frac{\text{June}}{\text{July}}$ 23, 1881.

(Signatures follow.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 138.

Memorandum on the Armenian Riot at Sivas in October 1880.

THE riot occurred on the 23rd October last; it commenced at sunset, or shortly after, and lasted between one and two hours. After the first few minutes it was too dark to distinguish objects or persons.

The disturbance was, in no small degree, a protest against the misgovernment of the Vali, which had deeply irritated the people, Moslem as well as Christian; it originated in the refusal of Hakki Pasha to look at the body of a murdered Armenian, which was carried to the konak, and to speak the few words of sympathy usual on such occasions.

A number of Armenians, belonging to the lower class, proceeded to the private residence of the Vali, and broke the windows with stones. The Vali was threatened and abused, but not struck. One witness, indeed, swore at the trial that Hakki Pasha had been knocked down and trampled upon by an Armenian, but the accusation was so manifestly unjust that the evidence was refused.

The next morning the Armenian Bishop and Notables visited the Vali to express their sorrow for what had occurred, and on this occasion Hakki Pasha publicly thanked Glyanossian Effendi, a leading Armenian merchant, who was afterwards imprisoned, for the efforts which he made to quell the riot.

The following day the Vali asked the Bishop to send him a list of the principal rioters. The Bishop—wrongly, in my opinion—refused to do this, and he was afterwards, at Hakki Pasha's instigation, ordered to Constantinople, where he still remains.

The Vali, who had previously sent alarming telegrams to the Porte, now began to declare openly that he considered the riot to be a political demonstration, and that an Armenian rebellion was imminent. He even had an address to the Porte prepared in this sense, which was signed, I have reason to believe, under pressure by several Moslem Notables of Sivas. Some of the leading men refused to sign the address, on the ground that it was unwise to exaggerate what was only a simple riot; and they thus incurred the displeasure of the Vali, which he has since lost no opportunity of showing. Some of the officials have also expressed to me their regret at having been persuaded by Hakki Pasha to sign such exaggerated reports.

There was no real pretext for making the riot a political offence; stone-throwing is not uncommon amongst the lower classes at Sivas, and about three years ago a similar disturbance took place, during which the Moslem women broke the windows of Sureya Pasha's konak.

Though Hakki Pasha informed Lieutenant Chermside, C.M.G., shortly after the disturbance, that he had the names of the rioters, and was urged by that officer to proceed against them, no arrests were made until the twenty-fifth day, when the names of thirty-three suspected Armenians were given to the police. The police performed their duty with much harshness, and in one instance forced their way into a Christian school and dispersed the boys.

The Vali now took the unusual course of bringing the prisoners before a Court of Inquiry, formed of the Administrative Council (Idaré Medjliss) of the vilayet, the Judges of the Courts, and the Military Commandant. The prisoners were interrogated as if they were before a Court of Justice, and, after the depositions of two of them had been taken down, the Court, with the exception of one Armenian member, decided that the case was one of "sinayet" (felony). The Christian, however, protested so strongly against the illegality of the whole proceeding that the case was at last referred to the Courts of Justice. Hakki Pasha, during this preliminary trial, was at once President, prosecutor, and witness.

The Inspector of Justice and the Public Prosecutor now formed two irregular Courts for the further examination of the prisoners, upon which, contrary to all law, they themselves sat. The examination was conducted in such an unfair and illegal manner that the Judges at last refused to attend, on the ground that the same persons could not act as Juges d'Instruction and Judges.

In consequence of this the case was referred to the Court of First Instance, and the examination was conducted before a Moslem and Christian member of the Court by a Moslem Azé Mulazim, or paid supernumerary of the Court, who acted as Juge d'Instruction.

The indictment of the Public Prosecutor made no specific accusation against the prisoners, or even named them individually; it simply demanded the punishment of the men who had thrown stones at the Vali's house. The Christian member of the Court, a Protestant Armenian, appealed to the Inspector of Justice, and pointed out that such an indictment was of no value, but he was overruled and told to proceed with the examination.

The examination of the accused and of the witnesses for the prosecution occupied nearly a month; no witnesses were allowed for the defence.

The Juge d'Instruction now gave his decision, charging thirty-three Armenians with "sinayet" (felony). This decision would have been accepted by the Ittiham of the Court of First Instance, if it had not been for the energetic protests of the Protestant Armenian member, who maintained that the case was similar to that of the Moslem women who stoned Sureya Pasha's konak, and that it should be classed in the same category. Eventually the Ittiham decided that the case was "junha" (misdemeanour), and the Court condemned the Armenians under Articles 112 and 114 of the Penal Code. The Protestant member objected to the application of Article 114.

When the Court met to pass sentence, the Azé Mulazim, who had acted as Juge d'Instruction, and who was also doing duty as Assistant Public Prosecutor, took his seat as a member of the Court.

The Public Prosecutor and the Armenians would not accept the sentence of the Court of First Instance, and appealed to the "Istinaf" (Court of Appeal).

When the Ittiham gave its decision that the case was "junha," the prisoners, according to law, should have been admitted to bail, but the pressure brought to bear on the Court by the Vali, the Inspector of Justice, and the Public Prosecutor was such that, in spite of repeated telegraphic orders for their release from Constantinople, bail was refused. When the Court of First Instance passed sentence, and the prisoners appealed to the Istinaf, they petitioned the Judge of that Court to release them on bail. The Judge, on proceeding to do this, was accused by the Vali of wishing to favour the Armenians, and he thereupon sent a strongly-worded complaint to the Minister of Justice. The prisoners were eventually admitted to bail, but the incident so angered Hakki Pasha that he afterwards refused to sign the monthly pay dockets of the Judge, who, when I left Sivas in July last, was ten or eleven months in arrear of pay.

Before the case was tried in the Istinaf the Vali ordered new members to be elected to the Courts with a view to eliminate men who had shown any independence of character and to replace them by members who would be more subservient. One of the members of the new Istinaf was a man who had been dismissed from his post as Mufti for misappropriating Government lands, and debarred from all future employment by special Vizirial letter. Another was a Moslem, well known for his hostility to Christians, and three others were members of the Sivas "ring," of which Mehemet Ali Effendi is leader.

The "Istinaf" (Court of Appeal), after reading the indictment of the Public Prosecutor, and the counter-arguments of the Armenians, condemned the prisoners to be punished under Article 112 of the Penal Code, and an Article of a new penal regulation which was promulgated after the date of the riot. No witnesses were allowed for the defence.

The Armenians then appealed to the "Divan-i-temiz" (High Court at Constantinople), where the matter now rests.

The following remarks are submitted on the lists of prisoners and witnesses which are attached. As regards the former:—

No. 1. Ghyanossian Effendi is a much-respected Armenian merchant, one of the chief Christian Notables at Sivas, who, as stated above, was publicly thanked by the Vali for the part which he took in suppressing the riot. His imprisonment was due to the fact that he had incurred the enmity of the notorious Mehemet Ali Effendi; and the witnesses against him were the same men who, at Mehemet Ali's instigation, stoned his house in 1878, as reported by Mr. Consul Biliotti in his despatch No. 160 of the 13th November, 1878.

No. 20. Antranik Effendi is an Armenian Notable, who was formerly Cashier of the vilayet, and who, in that position, had given offence to Mehemet Ali by refusing to become a party to his intrigues.

No. 12. Deli Khorik is a well-known lunatic. He openly said at Sivas that the Vali tried to bribe him to give false evidence.

No. 14. Mardiros, though not tried in the Court of First Instance, was found guilty, without trial, by the Court of Appeal.

Nos. 15, 16, and 17. Alexan, Kirkor, and Serop, acquitted by the Court of First Instance, were found guilty, without further trial, by the Court of Appeal.

No. 21. Atanossian had twenty-five witnesses to swear that he was at the convent, a mile from Sivas, when the riot occurred. The evidence was not accepted, and he was condemned to five months' imprisonment by the Court of First Instance. He was, however, acquitted by the Appeal Court.

Against three of the prisoners, Nos. 26, 27, and 28, no witnesses appeared; and one man, No. 32, was imprisoned for forty-nine days in mistake for another.

The list of men to be arrested was so carelessly drawn up that one name was inserted to which no owner could be found.

The character of most of the witnesses is sufficiently shown by the remarks on the list. Many of them are well known at Sivas as men who are often employed by Mehemet Ali Effendi and members of his "ring" in questionable transactions.

I was told by several Moslems and Christians that great efforts were made by Mehemet Ali Effendi, after the riot, to secure the services of false witnesses against the Armenians by intimidation and bribery. When, however, Mehemet Ali found that the matter was attracting attention at Constantinople, he used his influence to secure the release of the prisoners on bail.

Inclosure 4 in No. 138.

List of Armenians to be arrested, given by the Vali to the Chief of the Police, with terms of Imprisonment and Sentence, &c., of both Courts; and Remarks.

No.	Name of Accused.	Occupation.	Number of Days in Prison before Trial, or Sentence.	Number of Days in Prison after Trial, or Sentence.	Sentence of the Subordinate Court of First Instance.	Finding of the Appeal Court.	Number of Witnesses for the Prosecution.	Remarks.
1	Ghiaros-lian Agop Effendi	Merchant	49	Nil	Loss of civil rights and 6 months' imprisonment	Guilty	6	Was removed from prison on account of illness, after delivery of sentence.
2	Pehlad oglu Ohgan	Apprentice	49	24	5 ,, ,,	,,	5	
3	Mikaijo oglu Hampar	Bootmaker	56	21	Loss of civil rights and 6 months' imprisonment	,,	2	
4	Samvili Garabed	Saddler	56	21	,, ,,	,,		
5	Chanesirian Artin	Shopkeeper	56	21	Loss of civil rights and 6 months' imprisonment	,,	2	
6	Khatik oglu Dikran	Apprentice	56	Nil	Loss of civil rights	,,	1	A lunatic. Attempts made to bribe him with £T. 5 to give false evidence.
7	Kasabgian Ohgan	Auctioneer	56	21	Loss of civil rights and 6 months' imprisonment	,,	3	Condemned by Court of Appeal, without trial.
8	Dellal oglu Mardiros	Grocer	49	21	5 ,, ,,	,,	2	
9	Hedjadjiji oglu Garabed	Potter	49	21	,, ,,	,,	1	
10	Hedjadjiji oglu Ohanes	,,	49	21	,, ,,	,,	1	
11	Chilinghir oglu Ohgan	,,	49	21	,, ,,	,,	1	
12	Deli Khorik	Bootmaker	56	21	Loss of civil rights and 6 months' imprisonment	,,	3	
13	Kirkidji oglu	,,	56	Nil	Nil	,,	2	
14	Chezakedji oglu Mardiros	Shopkeeper	18	Nil	Nil	,,	2	Caught typhoid fever in prison; was removed. Case still before Court of Appeal.
15	Aghin oglu Ahmed	Dyer	18	Nil	Acquitted	,,	1	Twenty-five witnesses swore he was at the consent during the riot; evidence not received.
16	Yorgadi Kirkor	Shoemaker	18	Nil	,,	,,	1	Several witnesses swore he was at convent with No. 21 during the riot.
17	Khanifegh oglu Serop	,,	18	Nil	,,	,,	1	
18	Abadjian Michael	Shopkeeper	56	21	Loss of civil rights	,,	1	
19	Abadjian Nazaret	,,	56	21	,, ,,	,,	1	
20	Aarmak Vartanian	Formerly Sanak Emin	47	Nil	Nil	,,	1	The names of these men were given by the Vali to the police, but no witnesses could be found to appear against them.
21	Kelegyz Ahmedian	Cabinet-maker	56	24	3 months' imprisonment	Acquitted	1	Imprisoned by mistake, during forty-nine days, instead of No. 38.
22	Hedros Khorikian	,,	56	Nil	Acquitted	,,	1	This man was on the list given to the reporters, but they could find no one of such a name.
23	Mikaijo oglu Avak	,,	56	21	,,	,,	1	
24	Kilingir oglu Kirkor	,,	56	18	,,	,,	1	
25	Dellal oglu Hachador	,,	56	Nil	,,	,,	1	
26	Kelech oglu Megerdich	,,	56	,,	,,	,,	1	
27	Kavasb Ohgan	Butcher	56	,,	Nil	,,	1	
28	Nichran ,,	,,	56	,,	,,	,,	1	
29	Kevkelian Batal	,,	56	18	Acquitted	,,	1	
30	Murad oglu Megerdich	,,	56	Nil	,,	,,	1	
31	Avak ,,	,,	56	Nil	,,	,,	1	
32	Kilidji oglu Kevork	Bootmaker	49	21	,,	,,	1	
33	Kalayji Kezenler oglu ...	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	

Inclosure 5 in No. 138.

Names of some of the Witnesses against the Armenians, and their Characters.

1. BASH DELI MEHEMET.—A Kafedji and smuggler; notorious for his debauchery; was imprisoned three or four years ago for wounding a man in the open market. At the trial he was accused of being a false witness, and imprisoned. A few days afterwards he was released, and his evidence accepted. He is brother of the famous Bash Deli Osman, a man of notoriously bad character, lately Yuzbashi at Tocat, who was dismissed by Abédine Pasha.

Witness against Nos. 1, 15, 17, 21, and 31.

2. Zaptieh Ennor.—Was a smuggler and "ashkiya" until he became a zaptieh two years ago. Has been in prison for robberies and smuggling. Is proved to have been at the mill when the riot occurred. He owes money to Dellalian and Abadjian, and when pressed to pay went to the Court and gave evidence against them.

Witness against Nos. 3, 5, 8, 18, and 19.

3. Imam Mustafa.—Is known at Sivas by the name of "Tchatal Tcheshmenin Imami;" a low man, notorious for his corrupt practices; so much is this the case that in taking an oath the people say, "Do you take upon your shoulders the sins of the Imam of Tchatal Tcheshmé?" Conspicuous for his hatred of the Christians. Is a false witness, especially when a Christian is concerned, and has often been heard to say that it is no sin to give false evidence against a Giaour.

Witness against Nos. 1, 6, 9, 10, 13, 22, 23, and 32.

4. Berber Izzet.—A barber, belongs to a class of men called in Sivas "ashkiyas," who forcibly seize boys for immoral purposes.

Witness against No. 6.

5. Zaptieh Mevlond.—A Kars refugee; now the Vali's orderly. Not knowing the people against whom he was to give evidence, they were pointed out to him publicly in Court by the Assistant Public Prosecutor.

Witness against Nos. 2, 21, and 29.

6. Zaptieh Hassan.—Was a drunkard and without employment until he was made a zaptieh a year ago; is now the Vali's orderly.

Witness against No. 8.

7. Fetoullah.—Was a bad character and "ashkiya," and imprisoned for stealing, rape, &c. Was recently made Market Superintendent to the Town Council. He died a day or two after making his deposition, and thus could not appear at the trial. This man had a defect in his eyes and could not see after sunset, yet his evidence for matters which happened after dark was accepted.

Witness against Nos. 4, 7, 12, 13, 16, 30, and 32.

8 and 9. Ahmed Effendi, and Abdi, his brother.—One 22, the other 18 years of age, neighbours of Ghianossian Effendi. One of them is a book-binder, the other without employment. They earn their livelihood by robbery, and their father, who is dead, was a thief. They were in prison for stealing some years ago. They are the men who stormed Ghianossian's house in 1878, and were imprisoned two months for it. (See Mr. Biliotti's despatch of the 13th November, 1878.)

Witness (Ahmed Effendi) against Nos. 1, 9, 10, 11, 13, 23, 25, and 32.

Witness (Abdi) against Nos. 1 and 8.

10. Hadji Effendi.—A Softa in the Medressé, and also a compositor in the printing office of the "Sivas" paper. Is an "ashkiya," and very immoral. His habit is to bring false accusations against those who do not lend him money when asked.

Witness against Nos. 1, 6, 9, 10, and 11.

11. Suleiman.—An apprentice in a baker's shop, between 14 and 15 years old, a constant companion of the "ashkiyas."

12. Ketchedji Hadji Mustafa.—Is well known at Sivas as an "ashkiya;" has been in prison for smuggling, robbery, &c.; a follower of the notorious Mehemet Ali.

Witness against Nos. 3, 5, 18, 19, and 21.

13 and 14. Mehemet, Vali's groom, and Osman, Vali's cook.—These two men are not natives of Sivas, and it is almost impossible that they could have recognized actual stone-throwers in a large crowd after sunset.

Mehemet, witness against Nos. 1 and 2.

Osman, witness against Nos. 6, 21, and 22.

15. Kezek villagers.—The village of Kezek is known to be a nest of robbers, and the evidence of these men is not very trustworthy.

Witnesses against No. 14.

Inclosure 6 in No. 138.

The Earl of Dufferin to Assim Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, September* 14, 1881.

A PETITION, addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General by some of the Armenians who were found guilty of being concerned in the riot at Sivas in October, has recently been put in my hands, and as their case appears to be one of great hardship, I feel it my duty to lay a full statement of the facts before your Excellency, in the conviction that your Excellency will share my opinion that the local authorities have treated this matter in anything but a fair and impartial manner, and that the action of the Vali has been throughout inconsistent with justice, and a violation of the recent orders issued by the Ottoman Government, which forbid a Vali to interfere in any way with the Courts of Law and administration of justice in his vilayet.

The disturbance was, I am informed, in no small degree a protest against the misgovernment of the Vali, which had deeply irritated the population, Moslem as well as Christian; but it actually originated in the refusal of Hakki Pasha to look at the body of a murdered Armenian which was carried to the konak, and to speak the few words of sympathy usual on such occasions. In consequence of this refusal, a number of Armenians of the lower class proceeded to the private residence of the Vali, and broke the windows with stones. The Vali was threatened and abused, but not struck; and the evidence of a man at the trial, who swore that Hakki Pasha had been knocked down and trampled upon by an Armenian, was so manifestly false that it was refused.

On the day following the riot the Armenian Bishop and other Notables waited upon the Vali to express their regret at what had occurred, and on this occasion Hakki Pasha publicly thanked Glyanossian Effendi, a leading Armenian merchant at Sivas, for the efforts he had made in quelling the riot. This gentleman was subsequently thrown into prison.

On the day following the Vali asked the Bishop to send him a list of the chief rioters. The Bishop declined to do this, and he was afterwards ordered to Constantinople, where he still remains.

The Vali now began to declare openly that he considered the riot a political demonstration, and that an Armenian rebellion was imminent. He even caused an address to the Porte to be drawn up in this sense, which was signed, I am informed, under pressure by several Moslem Notables at Sivas. Some of the leading men, however, refused to attach their names to it, on the ground that it was unwise to invest with so much importance what was nothing more than a riot, while others who did sign have since expressed their regret at having done so.

Though Hakki Pasha reported to Her Majesty's Consulate shortly after the disturbance that he had the names of the rioters, no arrests were made until the twenty-fifth day, when the names of thirty-three suspected Armenians were handed to the police. The latter, it is alleged, performed their duty with great harshness, and in one instance forced their way into a Christian school and dispersed the boys.

The proper course, as your Excellency is aware, would now have been to have brought the case before the Court of First Instance; but, instead of this, the Vali summoned the prisoners to appear before a Court of Inquiry, formed of the Administrative Council of the vilayet, the Judges of the Courts, and the Military Commandant. The prisoners were interrogated as if they were before a Court of Justice, and, after the depositions of two of them had been taken down, the Court, with the exception of one Armenian member, decided that the case was one of "sinayet" (felony).

The Armenian, however, protested so strongly against the illegality of the proceeding that the case was at last referred to the Courts of Justice.

During this preliminary trial the Vali was at once President, prosecutor, and witness.

The Inspector of Justice and the Public Prosecutor now formed two irregular Courts for the further examination of the prisoners, upon which, contrary to all law, they themselves sat. But the inquiry was conducted in such an illegal manner that the Judges at last refused to attend on the ground that the same persons could not act as Juges d'Instruction and Judges. In consequence of this the case was referred at last to the Court of First Instance, and the examination conducted before a Moslem and a Christian member of the Court by a Moslem "Azé Mulazim," or paid supernumerary of the Court, who acted as Juge d'Instruction.

The indictment of the Public Prosecutor made no specific accusation against the prisoners, nor even named them individually; it simply demanded the punishment of the

men who had thrown stones at the Vali's house. The Christian member of the Court protested against this proceeding, but was overruled and told to proceed with the inquiry.

The examination of the accused and of the witnesses for the prosecution lasted nearly a month, but for the defence no witnesses were allowed.

The Juge d'Instruction then gave his decision, charging the thirty-three Armenians with felony, but owing to the energetic protest of the Protestant Armenian member, the Court finally decided that the case was one of misdemeanour, and condemned the prisoners under Articles 112 and 114 of the Penal Code. The Protestant member again protested against the application of Article 114.

When the Court met to pass sentence the Azé Mulazim, who had acted as Juge d'Instruction, and who also did duty as Assistant Public Prosecutor, took his seat as a member of the Court.

The sentence of this Court was not accepted by the Armenians, who consequently appealed to the Istinaf (Court of Appeal).

After the decision of the Court of First Instance the prisoners should, according to law, have been admitted to bail, but the pressure brought to bear on the Court by the Vali, the Inspector of Justice, and the Public Prosecutor was so great that, in spite of repeated telegraphic orders from Constantinople for their release, bail was refused.

The prisoners were eventually admitted to bail by the Judge.

The conduct of the Vali at this stage of the proceedings is, in my opinion, so much to be deplored that I cannot refrain from calling your Excellency's special attention to it. His Excellency was so irritated at the Judge having admitted the prisoners to bail that he openly accused him of having favoured the Armenians, and forwarded a complaint on the subject to the Minister of Justice, and eventually carried his anger so far as to refuse to sign his monthly pay dockets, leaving him in July last ten or eleven months in arrears of pay.

Again, before the case came up to the Court of Appeal, it is stated that the Vali ordered new members to be elected to the Courts, with a view to eliminate men who had shown any independence of character, and to replace them by members who would be more subservient; and I am informed that one of the members of the new Istinaf was a man who had been dismissed from his post as Mufti for misappropriating Government lands, and debarred from all future public employment by special Vizirial letter, and others were men well known for their hostility to Christians.

The Court of Appeal eventually condemned the prisoners to be punished under Article 112 of the Penal Code, and under an Article of a new penal Regulation which had been promulgated since the date of the riot. No witnesses were allowed for the defence.

The Armenians then appealed to the Divan-i-Temiz (High Court) at Constantinople, where the matter now rests.

In order that your Excellency may fully understand the nature of the undue pressure which has been brought to secure the condemnation of the prisoners, I beg to submit to your Excellency the following remarks by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Sivas on the lists of prisoners and witnesses which I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency with this note.

As regards the prisoners—

No. 1, Glyanossian Effendi, is a much respected Armenian merchant, one of the chief Christian Notables at Sivas, who was publicly thanked by the Vali for the part he took in quelling the riot. His imprisonment was due to the fact that he had incurred the enmity of the notorious Mehemet Ali Effendi, and the witnesses brought against him were the same men who, at Mehemet Ali's instigation, stoned his house in November 1878.

No. 20, Antranik Effendi, is an Armenian Notable who was formerly Cashier of the vilayet, and who, in that position, had given offence to Mehemet Ali by refusing to become a party to his intrigues.

No. 12, Deli Khorik, is a well-known lunatic. He stated openly at Sivas that the Vali tried to bribe him to give false evidence.

No. 14, Mardiros, though not tried in the Court of First Instance, was found guilty without trial by the Court of Appeal.

Nos. 15, 16, and 17, Alexan, Kirkor, and Serop, acquitted by the Court of First Instance, were found guilty without trial by the Court of Appeal.

No. 21, Atanossian, had twenty-five witnesses to swear that he was at the convent, a mile from Sivas, when the riot occurred. The evidence was not accepted, and he was condemned to five months' imprisonment by the Court of First Instance. He was, however, acquitted by the Court of Appeal.

Against three of the prisoners, Nos. 26, 27, and 28, no witnesses appeared. Some man was imprisoned for forty-nine days in mistake for another.

With regard to the witnesses, the character of most of them will be sufficiently shown by the remarks which your Excellency will find appended to their names in the inclosed list.

The affair is now before the Divan-i-Temiz, and I cannot but feel assured that your Excellency, having thus been made acquainted with the true facts of the case, and with the harsh and illegal treatment to which the Armenians in question have been subjected, will use every endeavour to have full justice done to them, and will take such action with respect to those officials, whose culpable conduct has been brought to your Excellency's notice, as the exigencies of the case require.

In discussing with your Excellency the condition and status of the Armenian population, and the reforms to be introduced into the provinces which they principally inhabit, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, I have frequently had the honour to point out that one of the first principles for which the European Governments contend is that they, in common with their fellow-citizens of every creed, should enjoy an impartial administration of justice. On this occasion this has manifestly been denied to them through the misconduct of the Vali and his subordinates. Under these circumstances, it is not to be wondered at that the complaints which I have been expressly instructed by my Government to bring to the attention of the Porte should be both vehement and general, and should have attracted the attention of the Powers.

I have ventured to insist on this particular case, as it is a flagrant example of its kind, and exhibits in a striking degree the way in which, through the incompetence and tyranny of local authorities the benevolent intentions of the Sovereign and his Ministers are thwarted and neutralized.

It is an equal misfortune that the persons inculpated in the original disturbance should not have been punished in the measure due to their offence, and that those against whom nothing apparently has been proved should have been so irregularly tried, and arbitrarily condemned.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 139.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 3.*)

(No. 837.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, forwarding Tables of the population of the Vilayet of Bitlis, accompanied by a map.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 37.)
Sir, *Van, September 6, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose Tables of population of the Vilayet of Bitlis, and a sketch map, in which I have endeavoured to indicate the proportions of Armenians and Moslems in the different districts by the proportion between the colours employed.

To the Tables of population I have added for comparison a summary of the figures given in the statistics forwarded to me by your directions. The number of houses given by your statistics corresponds with the number ascertained by myself in such villages as I have visited, but the average number of persons per house exceeds that generally assumed, viz., seven, notably in some districts, *e.g.*, Melasgird and Boulanyk. Nevertheless, as the numbers given me for a few villages in Boulanyk and Melasgird by a third authority even exceed the numbers shown in your statistics, I think it quite possible that your figures may not be far from the truth. But as the statistics I have obtained include in most cases the Moslem population, they may be of use for comparison, even if the actual numbers are somewhat under the mark. It is certain, however, that no absolutely accurate enumeration has yet been made of the population in the Bitlis Vilayet. In the various districts several villages appear in your statistics which are not in mine, and *vice versâ*,

and the ex-Bishop of Van, who was one of those who made the estimates, himself told me that it was very difficult to get at the exact numbers, as the people either feared on the one hand that fresh taxes were to be imposed and only acknowledged to less than their real numbers, or, on the other, if they thought the numbers were to be submitted to the European Powers, added on from 25 to 50 per cent. The numbers of Moslems especially can only be regarded as a rough approximation.

As regards the Sandjak of Sert, I only received the statistics since my return to Van from my recent tour, and no one here is able to tell me the exact position of some of the sub-districts named in the Tables, though it is known to which caza they belong; I have, therefore, not attempted in the map to show graphically the distribution of the population.

On the whole there is unquestionably not so much accuracy in these Tables of the Bitlis Vilayet as I believe there is in the Tables of the Van Vilayet which I sent you on the 16th May, 1881, for I am assured that the numbers of Armenians in the Van Vilayet may be taken as absolutely correct, inasmuch as the Christian name and surname has been written down of every individual enumerated in the Tables. The numbers of the Moslems, however, even in the Van Vilayet, must be only considered as approximate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosuure 2 in No. 139.

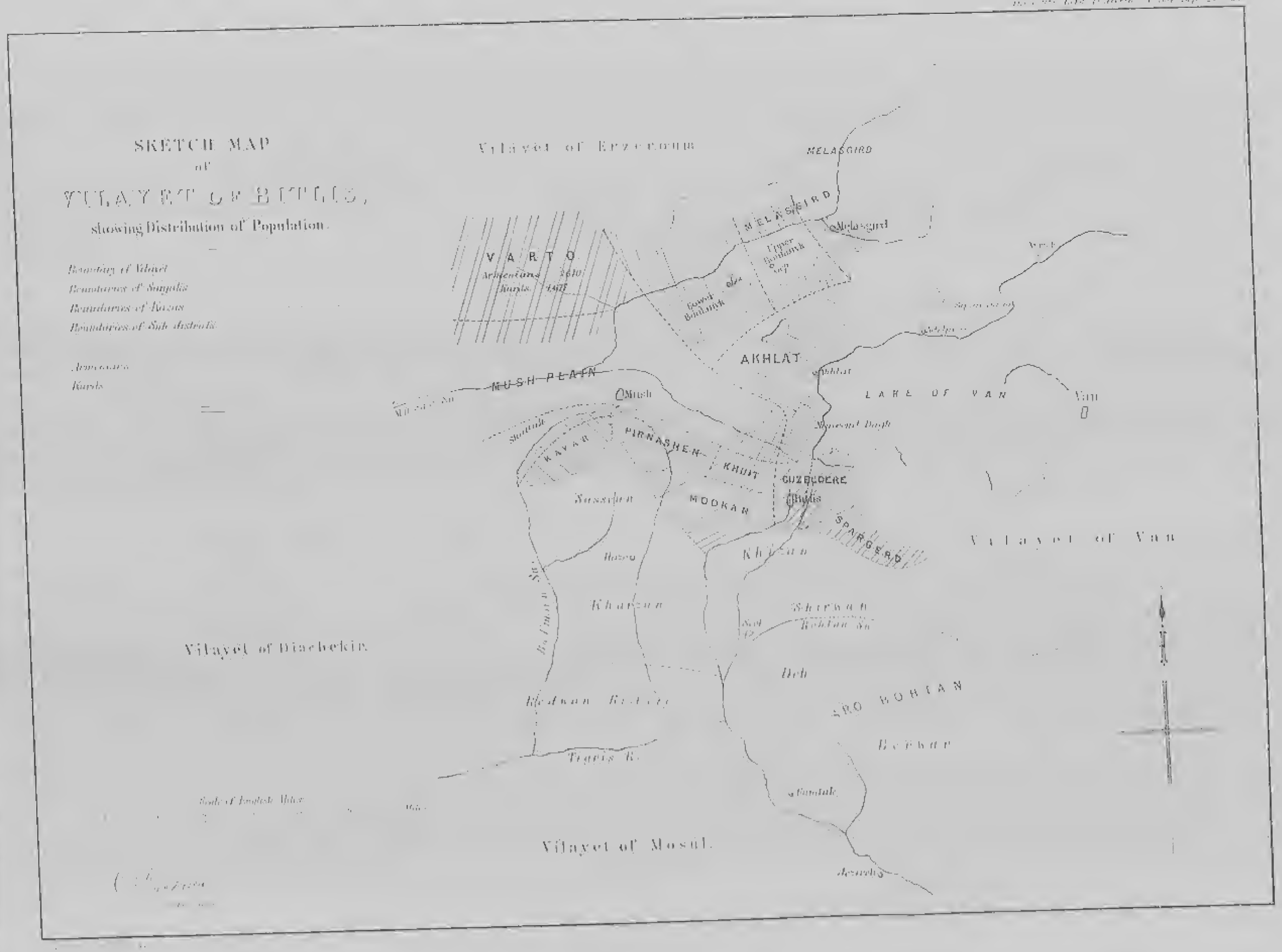
STATEMENT of the Population of the Vilayet of Bilis.

[The figures printed in *italics* were written in red in the original.]

Caza.	Sub-Districts.	Armenian Villages.	Moslem Villages.	Mixed Villages.	Armenians.	Moslems.	Figures from Statistics sent by Major Trotter. Armenians.	Moslems.	Armenian Houses.		Remarks.
	Sandjak of Mush.										
	Mush Town	..	..	..	*6,005*	*8,550*	*6,005*	*8,550*	*959*	Mush Town.	
	.. Plain	87	89	10	36,840	13,968	*39,720*	*2,100*	*4,550*	.. Plain.	
Mush	Shattakh	5	15	..	806	2,752	*5,057*	*1,185*	*518*	Sassoun-Shattakh ..	"Sassoun-Shattakh" in Major Trotter's statistics is equivalent generally to "Shattak" and "Kawar" in Captain Clayton's; but part of the villages in Sassoun-Shattakh belong, I believe, to Diarbekir Vilayet.
	Kawar .. .	10	5	1	1,587	1,087					
Varto	Varto	13	91	1	2,610	4,677	*2,003*	*530*	*249*	Varto.	
	Boulanyk, Upper ..	11	4	5	11,256	1,659	*1,800*	*845*	*1,703*	Upper Boulanyk.	
Melasgird	.. Lower ..	5	17	8	4,804	4,676	*6,555*	*1,895*	*665*	Lower ..	
	Melasgird	2	76	13	2,903	7,819	*3,089*	*2,550*	*487*	Manasgerd.	
Akhlat	Akhlat	18	5	1	5,234	397 (?)	*8,056*	*180*	*1,001*	Akhlat	Town and suburbs of Akhlat (principally Moslem) not included in either statistics. A considerable portion of Kurdish population in remainder of Caza of Akhlat also omitted.
	Total, Sandjak of Mush	149	302	39	72,165	46,765	*89,271*	*17,835*	*10,150*		
	Sandjak of Bitlis.										
	Bitlis City	..	..	..	10,724	20,000 (?)	*10,724*	..	*1,532*	City of Bitlis.	
	Environs of Bitlis ..	17	14	..	6,395	3,512	*3,648*	..	*496*	Rahwa	"Rahwa" and "Dadig" of Major Trotter's statistics are together equivalent to "Environs of Bitlis" and "Dadig" of Captain Clayton's; but the villages are differently grouped.
Bitlis	Dadig	9	6	..	2,170	690	*3,853*	..	*655*	Dadig (environs of Bitlis).	
	Guzeldere	14	12	3	1,556	1,082	*2,459*	*1,041*	*313*	Guzeldere.	
	Modkan	26	30	..	4,956	2,730	*2,138*	..	*298*	Modkan.	
Modkan	Khuit	7	13	6	1,255	1,366	*1,548*	..	*185*	Khuit.	
	Pirnashen	1	4	9	368	794	*1,409*	..	*186*	Pirnashen.	
	Total, Sandjak of Bitlis	74	79	18	27,624	30,174	*25,869*	..	*3,665*		
Spargerd		26	15	..	3,568	1,269	..	..	..	..	Spargerd formerly belonged to Van, but is now under Bitlis.
	Amended total, Sandjak of Bitlis ..	100	94	18	31,182	31,433	..	..	..		

September 1881.

(Signed) E. CLAYTON, *Captain, R.A.*


SKETCH MAP
of
VILAYET OF BITLIS,
showing Distribution of Population.
Boundary of Vilayet
Boundaries of Sanjaks
Boundaries of Kazas
Boundaries of Sub-districts
Armenians
Kurds
Vilayet of Erzeroum
MELASGIRD
Melasgird
VARTO
Armenians 2610
Kurds 1477
AKHLAT
MUSH PLAIN
Mush
LAKE OF VAN
Van
KAVAR
PIRNASHEN
KHUIT
GUZELDERE
Bitlis
MODKAN
SPARGERD
Vilayet of Van
Khizan
Kharzan
Shirwan
Deh
ARO BOHTAN
Berwar
Vilayet of Diarbekir
Tigris R.
Vilayet of Mosul.

Inclosure 3 in No. 139.

Sketch Map of the Vilayet of Bitlis, showing the Distribution of the Population.

Inclosure 4 in No. 139.

STATEMENT of the Population of the Sandjak of Sert.

Cazas.	Sub-Districts.	Armenian Villages.	Nestorian Villages.	Kurdish Villages.	Yezidis Villages.	Sun-worshippers' Villages.	Mixed Villages.	Armenians.	Nestorians.	Turks and Kurds.	Yezidis.	Sun-worshippers.
	Sert town	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,400	..	4,000	..	..
	Sert environs	..	1	6	..	..	4	89	120	429	..	..
Aso-Hoktan	Deh	17	2	97	..	..	3	6,342	316	6,929	..	..
	Berwan	5	..	19	..	..	1	984	..	2,771	..	..
Shirwan	Shirwan	16	7	93	..	..	3	1,680	781	13,155	..	..
	Khizan	41	..	(?)	..	..	..	6,585	..	(?)	..	..
	Erun	4	4	6	..	..	..	480	1,090	1,259	..	..
	Ghayan	..	2	5	..	..	..	..	400	540	..	..
	Zerigan*	..	..	..	..	..	..	800	790	1,500	..	..
Sassoun	Kharzan	13	3	57	..	7	30	8,610	1,609	8,982	..	1,157
	Sassoun	39	..	13	..	..	19	5,711	..	3,045	..	..
Redwan-Bisheri ..	Nargihan	16	2	18	3	..	17	3,301	1,350	2,103	1,657	..
	Rashgan	10	1	14	2	..	24	5,119	1,726	2,317	760	..
	Rashan	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	1,400	..	..
Total, Sandjak of Sert		161	22	336	5	7	101	12,131	8,482	48,103	2,417	1,157

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, *Captain, R.A.*

September 1881.

No. 140.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 838. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter on the subject of the persecution of Protestants by the Nestorians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 38. Confidential.)

Sir, *Van, September* 6, 1881.

MR. BARNUM, the American missionary, has communicated to me the contents of a letter he has received from Mr. Labaree, one of the missionaries at Oroomiah, dated the 7th July, 1881, in which he states that the Nestorians of Tehoma and Tiyari are persecuting the adherents of the American mission, turning the teachers out of their houses, and threatening their lives. Mr. Labaree says the fomenters of this persecution are the Meleks of Tehoma and Tiyari, "who represent the Russian party among the independent Nestorians."

He goes on to suggest to Mr. Barnum that he should appeal to the Russian Vice Consul at Van, and get the American Minister at Constantinople to represent the matter to the Russian Ambassador. Mr. Barnum spoke to Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul here during my absence from Van, and he replied that he had nothing to do with

* Zerigan belongs partly to Caza of Shirwan, partly to Kharzan.

the Nestorians, but if he saw any of them he would certainly tell them they ought not to persecute. As regards the appeal to the Minister at Constantinople, I suggested that Mr. Barnum should simply lay the facts before him, without making any reference to the Russian Ambassador.

There is no doubt the Meleks of Tiyari and Tchoma, who have cast off the authority of Mar Shimoun, and who also defy the Turkish authority, have sent more than one deputation to Tiflis, but with what result I cannot tell. I have also good reason for knowing that the Turkish Government is very suspicious of Russian intrigues among the Nestorians, and is keeping a sharp look out for Russian emissaries. I am not, however, myself inclined to think that anything serious is going on at present, though it is not improbable that Russia may be just keeping the disaffected Nestorians on friendly terms with herself in case there may be an occasion for using them in the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 141.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 839.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, reporting the disturbed state of the region near the Persian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 30.)
Sir, *Van, September 6, 1881.*

THE regions in the neighbourhood of the Persian frontier continue to be in a disturbed state. The Government gives out that they have received orders from Constantinople that, with regard to the Shikaks and other fugitives from Persia, old men, women, children, and all Christians are to be received, but that Kurds with arms in their hands are to be prevented from crossing the frontier. It seems, however, that a considerable number of Shikaks must have come over, as the Armenian Arajnant, of Bashkala, Ohannes Vartabed, has telegraphed to Van that numbers of Shikaks have dispersed themselves in the villages on this side, and that the inhabitants of these villages say that they will be obliged to emigrate in consequence. There is no doubt that the frontier is very open, and it would be difficult for the Turkish authorities, with the small amount of force at their command, to close it effectually, and it is also true that the Persians are acting with great barbarity, and would probably not spare a soul of the Shikaks if they were prevented from escaping; but, on the other hand, the Shikaks are a most pernicious tribe, and will certainly do immense damage if they do come among the villages on this side.

Yesterday some Christian refugees came to me who said they had been obliged to flee from their villages on Persian territory, as the Persian troops had attacked them, killed many, looted and carried off all their property, and burned their villages. They were now desirous of emigrating to Russian territory.

In the country bordering on the Persian frontier north of Van, called Abagai, disturbances have also taken place. Two Kurdish tribes have been engaged in hostilities with one another, and a Chief and twenty to thirty men have been killed, and now it is reported that the Haidaranli, one of whose Chiefs it was that was killed, are making great preparations to avenge his death. The Vali told me, however, that the military authorities had received orders to prevent this. Much plundering is also going on, to a great extent committed by Persian Kurds, who make raids across the frontier. Government seems to be impotent to keep order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 142.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 840.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti, on the subject of the anarchy and insecurity prevailing in the district of Surmeneh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 12, 1881.*

A NUMBER of inhabitants of Surmeneh having been attacked by a band of brigands as they were returning from their summer residence, Hussein Bey, a very active police-officer, was dispatched to investigate the case, and also to try and discover the perpetrators of the outrage at Skarfia (reference to despatch No. 42 of the 4th ultimo).

A half-buried corpse was discovered in that vicinity a few days ago, and is supposed to be that of one of the aggressors who were wounded at Skarfia.

Hussein Bey, who was accompanied by a score of zaptiehs, has now confidentially informed the authorities at Trebizond that it might be possible to discover and to apprehend the culprits, but that he cannot do so with the force under his command, nor even with 200 men.

The district of Surmeneh, and indeed the whole country between Trebizond and the Russian frontier, is in a state of anarchy and insecurity beyond description. No traveller is safe on the roads, and I have from time to time reported cases of plunder and murder in villages. There are expeditions from those districts in Armenian villages in the Vilayet of Erzeroum. I may cite amongst other cases that at Hodoortchour in 1878, which was the subject of a long correspondence with the Embassy; and another case which took place a few months back at the same place, both of which had for object the plunder of churches, and were attended with loss of life.

I have called attention to this state of things since the year 1878, but no remedy having been adopted, the evil is increasing. There are Beys or Agas, who command influence, and are the abettors of brigands.

Sometimes, moved by a feeling of jealousy against each other, they assist the police in capturing criminals; such was the case in the affair reported in my despatch No. 33 of the 11th June last. But, if there is no feud between the magnates, the police are quite powerless.

Hussein Bey finds himself in a similar position. He reckons that there are only at Surmeneh about 5,000 Martini rifles, with plenty of ammunition in the hands of the population, which is very warlike, and considers that nothing can be done without the assistance of some local Bey. He states that a certain Buzogloo Djafer Aga is all-powerful, and that through him the culprits may be apprehended. It may be so if they do not belong to his clan, but I doubt that he will ever give up relatives or friends.

However, the Government at Trebizond have no other option but to follow the hint of Hussein Bey.

The police force for the Sandjak of Trebizond Proper, in which Surmeneh is comprised, should be 443 men, but hardly amounts to half the number, and it is impossible to induce individuals to enroll themselves as zaptiehs.

Under these circumstances, Apik Effendi, the Public Prosecutor, has been compelled to address a very engaging letter to Djafer Aga, telling him how thankful the Government would be for his assistance in the apprehension of the suspected parties in the fore-mentioned outrages, and promising him at the same time a decoration in case of success. This promise was made with the sanction of the Acting Governor-General, and shows the utter powerlessness of the Government, who are compelled to cajole the abettors of miscreants.

I understand that since two weeks a battalion of infantry is on its way from Erzinghian to Trebizond in order to reinforce the police, and it is to be hoped that the presence of these troops here will assist in the repression of crime.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 143.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 841.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti, reporting the murder of an Armenian by Lazes in the district of Fatza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 143.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 55.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 17, 1881.*

THE Armenian Bishop has just received a telegram from a certain Moutafian Simeon Captan informing him that in the night of the 10th instant thirty Laz immigrants, headed by Koodjoglou Hussein Aga, Aheskali Delimoustafaoglou, Mehmed Ali, and Ahmed, and the son of Telalkeusé, murdered his son Nazaret at Koumrikeuy (district of Fatza), and plundered his shop of goods for a value of 200*l.*

The Lazes in question resided in the village of Karkohak, in the Caza of Fatza, and Koodjoglou Hussein was already wanted by the police for other misdeeds.

On the Armenian Bishop bringing the matter to the notice of Yussuf Pasha, the latter wired at once to Unieh, Samsoun, Sivas, and Batoum for the apprehension of the brigands.

I avail myself of the opportunity to inform your Lordship that though at the request of the Porte it was agreed between the Russian and the Turkish Governments that Lazes accused of crimes should be extradited, not one of the numerous Lazes claimed by Russia was given up by Turkey, and this on account, it would seem, of the influence they have at Constantinople. It is not, therefore, likely that the Government of the Caucasus will consider themselves as bound by the Convention in question in the present, or in any other case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 144.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 842.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 27, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 495 of the 21st June last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Henderson, giving the particulars of the arrest of the Sheikh of the Ansariehs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Consul Henderson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, September 14, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Chief of the Ansariehs was arrested last Saturday, and was brought to Aleppo in irons, under a very strong escort. He is now kept in close confinement in the military prison here, all access to him being denied.

Sheikh Ibrahim exercises immense influence over the sect of which he is the Chief, and his arrest has caused great discontent, and may probably lead to some disturbances.

I was informed some weeks ago, on good authority, that Captain Stewart's visit to this Sheikh had been viewed with extreme disfavour by the Turks, and that Djemil Pasha had grossly misrepresented the object of this visit to the Sultan.

It is said that a letter has been discovered, in which the Sheikh undertakes to revolt against the Government at a certain time, and alludes to support which has been promised to him by a foreign Government. If such a letter exists, it is in all probability a forgery, written or dictated by the person who is endeavouring to make political capital out of Captain Stewart's visit for his own ends.

It is much to be regretted that a man of such influence, and so widely respected, should find himself in his present position through no imprudence of his own; but I have made no representations in his favour, as I feel sure they would do more harm than good, and would only give colour to the Vali's misrepresentations.

Another circumstance may also have thrown suspicion on the Sheikh's conduct, and that is, his having sent a delegate to the Porte some time ago to complain of over-taxation.

I am unaware whether Djemil Pasha has communicated officially with the Porte on this matter; but I know that he has written privately to his father, Namyk Pasha, the Sultan's Aide-de-camp, who has submitted the letters to His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 145.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 684.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 3, 1881.*

I APPROVE the assurance which you gave the Sultan in my name with regard to the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of the proposed appointment of a High Commissioner for the provinces inhabited by Armenians, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 817 of the 19th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 146.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 687.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 3, 1881.*

I APPROVE your language to the Sultan on the Armenian question, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 815 of the 19th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 147.

Earl Granville to Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 8, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 5 of the 6th August last, forwarding a set of plans and road reports of the passes in the Taurus and Giaour Dagh, prepared under circumstances of considerable difficulty by Lieutenant Bennet, R.E.; and I have to request that you will convey to that officer my thanks for these interesting papers, and that you will inform him that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War and His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief have expressed their appreciation of the valuable work done by him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE, LONDON

No. 148.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 847.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, September 29, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti on the subject of the administration of justice in the Trebizond Vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 56.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, September 19, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the condition of the Courts of Justice, as described in previous Reports, has somewhat ameliorated in the town of Trebizond, since the appointment as Presidents of more conscientious functionaries than those who formerly occupied the posts, but that the condition of the Judicial Courts in the cazas is as bad as, if not worse, than before.

However, as all depends in criminal trials on the preliminary examination on the spot of the circumstances connected with each case, and as the inquiries are not carried on as they should be by the judicial authorities in the cazas, most of the criminals evade justice.

I, therefore, consider as most essential that the Public Prosecutor should repair at once in places where crimes have been committed. His presence would be conducive to the detection of culprits, and that fact would greatly tend to prevent crimes.

I speak of the Public Prosecutor—on whom, by the new Regulations, seems to fall the whole management of the Courts of Justice—and not of the Inspector, for the latter post seems to be a well-paid sinecure, as its occupant has no power, and, judging from what takes place here, may be dispensed with. In fact, the post at Trebizond has only been filled up for a few months, and is vacant since two years, though lately an Inspector was appointed, who, however, has not yet resumed his duties, he being on leave at Constantinople.

The Vilayet of Trebizond has a sea-coast of 300 miles, with fourteen cazas extending along it. Out of the latter, only four are visited by steamers. Overland distances are great, and communications between one point and another difficult at all times, and almost impossible in winter.

Under these circumstances I would suggest, as tending to the repression of crime in this vilayet, that a small gun-boat should be placed at the disposal of the Government at Trebizond, in order to enable the Public Prosecutor to proceed without loss of time to any point on the coast where his presence may be necessary. Prisoners may be conveyed back in her—a task not always easily accomplished overland by the present inefficient police force; and the Governor-General himself may visit in her some parts of his vilayet which the want of steam communication prevents him from doing at present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 149.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 851.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 3, 1881.*

I BEG to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a précis of the Constitution of the Armenian nationality, which has been drawn up for me by Mr. Kennedy from a translation of the same with which Sir Charles Wilson has been good enough to furnish me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No 149.

Précis of Armenian Constitution.

THE Armenian community is governed internally through an elective Assembly, called the Idaré-i-Millie, in accordance with a Constitution sanctioned by Imperial Iradé, 17th March, 1863 (o.s.).

The Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople is the chief executive officer. He must be a Bishop, 35 years of age, and enjoy the confidence of the Porte. He is elected by the General Assembly from the Bishops of the Turkish Empire, but the Spiritual and Temporal Councils have each the right of first submitting their own views. The Spiritual Council furnishes a list of all the Bishops in an order of preference, as ascertained by ballot; but the Temporal Council only sends in the names of their first five favourites. The General Assembly then chooses one man from the two lists by an absolute majority, but he need not be one of the five included in the list of the Temporal Council. His election must be confirmed by the Sultan.

The duties of the Patriarch are to guard the Constitution, and to refer all questions brought before him to the proper Councils; though in cases of emergency he may take on himself alone the responsibility of acting.

Provision is made for his impeachment and his dismissal by General Assembly after ballot.

A Bureau for the transaction of the business of the Patriarchate, with proper offices, clerks, and divided into Departments, is provided.

The Patriarch's salary of 540*l.* a-year should, in accordance with the Constitution, be drawn from the Imperial Treasury, but M. Minasse Tcheraz, Secretary-General to the Armenian Patriarch, states that it is the Patriarchate which furnishes the money, out of which all expenses have to be defrayed.

Formerly a retiring pension of from 215*l.* to 540*l.* was granted to the Patriarchs, but this custom has been discontinued.

The Patriarch on succeeding to office has to pay fees amounting to over 500*l.* to the Porte.

The salaries of the Armenian Bishops at Constantinople are paid by their respective communal churches in the provinces of their respective Dioceses, but they never exceed 264*l.* per annum.

The Patriarch of Jerusalem's duties are to watch over the Monastery and religious establishments of Jerusalem.

His election is as follows:—

The clergy of the Jerusalem Monastery send a list of seven candidates, from whom the Spiritual and Temporal Councils in unison select three names, from which one is chosen by the General Assembly.

Provision is made for his impeachment.

The Spiritual Council consists of fourteen clergymen, 30 years of age, who have been five years in Holy Orders. They are elected by ballot by the General Spiritual Assembly, three times the number of members required being selected by ballot, and out of these the General National Assembly elects fourteen by ballot, whose names are submitted to the Sublime Porte for approval. The members change every two years.

Its duties are to superintend the spiritual affairs of the nation, to maintain in their purity the doctrines of the Armenian Church, and to exercise authority over the clergy and the national schools.

The Spiritual Council refers questions, when necessary, to the General Spiritual Assembly, composed of all the Bishops, and the General Assembly appeals to the Supreme Catholicos at Etchmiadzin.

The General Spiritual Assembly is composed of all the Bishops, Vartabeds, or preachers and Chief Priests of Constantinople, and of the Bishops of the neighbouring provinces.

All the preachers and Chief Priests of Constantinople are elected by the Spiritual Council by ballot.

The Temporal Council consists of twenty laymen well versed in Ottoman law and in national affairs, who are elected by ballot by the General National Assembly, subject to the approval of the Porte. It superintends the temporal and civil affairs of the nation, and refers all cases brought before it to their respective Commissions.

The members of the Temporal Council are changed every two years.

The Temporal Council cannot act in opposition to the recommendation of the Commissions.

There are four Commissions:—
1. For public instruction, consisting of seven laymen.
2. For national property, consisting also of seven laymen.
3. For justice, four laymen and four clerics.
4. For monasteries, seven members elected by the Temporal Council.

Acting under these Commissions there are four Committees:—

(*a.*) Finance: seven members chosen by the Temporal Council.

(*b.*) Requests: seven members (four laymen and three clerics), elected by majority of votes of Mixed Council.

(*c.*) Hospital Committee: nine members elected by Temporal Council.

(*d.*) Church Committees: composed of from five to twelve members. They are the local governing bodies.

The Church Committees keep a register of births, marriages, and deaths, and are in direct communication with the several Commissions on all subjects. They are elected for four years.

Every Church Committee is chosen by the people of the place. Any individual of 25 years of age, not disqualified by crime or by insanity, can be elected.

The members of the Spiritual and Temporal Councils may attend the sittings of the General Assembly, but if they are not also elected as Deputies they have not the right to vote. An absolute majority, *id est*, 71, constitutes a quorum. Those members of the two Councils who are members of the Assembly can take part in all discussions, but can only vote with regard to the national tax or in the elections.

The General Assembly is composed of 140 members, 20 of whom are clergymen, chosen by the clergy of Constantinople by ballot, 40 are Deputies from the provinces, elected by the Provincial General Assembly of each Diocese, and 80 are elected by the Church Committees of Constantinople.

The clerical members may be Bishops, Vartabeds, or priests, but must hold no appointment out of the capital. Their term of office is ten years, one-fifth going out every two years.

The chief duties of the General Assembly are the appointment of the Catholicos, the Patriarch, the chief functionaries of the nation, and the members of the Spiritual and Temporal Councils.

It meets generally once in every two years; it is summoned by the Patriarch, at the request of the majority of the members, with the assent of either Council and with the approval of the Porte.

Lay members of General Assembly: every two years the Temporal and Spiritual Councils and the Presidents of the Commissions fix the number of lay members to be sent from each Church Committee and province, in proportion to the number of electors in each district, as ascertained from the register in the Bureau of the Patriarch. The term of office is ten years, one-fifth being changed every two years. The members representing the Church Committee of Constantinople are elected by the people within the Church Committee district. Members from the provinces are elected by the General Assembly of their province.

Every one may vote for the election of lay members who pays 75 piastres (13*s.* 6*d.*) a-year into the National Treasury. There are other personal qualifications, such as employment in Government offices. Electors must be Ottoman subjects, and have completed their 25th year.

Candidates for the Church Committees are selected by the existing Church Committees, and supplemented by from three to six Notables, who sit as additional temporary members. These draw up a list of eligible persons, from amongst whom a selection is made by a general vote of the electors within the Church Committee district.

National tax is of two kinds: (1) general, to defray general expenses, levied by the Patriarch; (2) local, collected by every Church Committee and every Provincial Council.

The mode of rating and the amount of the taxes are determined by the General Assembly, and levied with the approval of the Porte.

In each Diocese the foregoing organization is reproduced on a smaller scale. The Diocesan General Assemblies appoint Deputies to the General Assembly, choose the Spiritual and Temporal Councils, and nominate a Prelate, whose election is ratified by the Patriarch.

The fundamental principles of the Armenian Constitution are unchangeable, but, if necessary, the details may be modified five years after its promulgation by a specially-constituted Commission of twenty, with the approval of the General Assembly and the sanction of the Sultan.

No. 150.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 858.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 3, 1881.*

I AM happy to be able to inform you that, having spoken more than once upon the subject at the Porte, there at last appears an inclination on the part of the Ottoman Government to employ the English gendarmerie officers a little more actively. Colonel Blunt has been sent to Adrianople, Colonel Briscoe is at Aleppo, Colonel Baker and Colonel Norton are going to Smyrna and Damascus, and Colonel Synge is attached to Baker Pasha's Department at Constantinople.

Baker Pasha further informs me that these officers are now being regularly paid, and that most of their arrears have also been handed them. Regular orders, moreover, have been forwarded to the Valis, notifying the powers and duties of the Inspectors, and directing every assistance to be given to them.

Although so far this is satisfactory, I am sorry to say that the reorganization of the gendarmerie generally upon the plan recommended by Baker Pasha seems as far off as ever, or rather an inclination is being evinced to return to the old Zaptieh Regulations with some modifications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 151.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 861. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 4, 1881.*

ON Saturday the 1st instant a conference was held at my request for the purpose of examining in detail the project of Armenian reforms drawn up by Sir Charles Wilson and Major Trotter, inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 765 of the 1st ultimo, copies of which I had also communicated to my colleagues.

At the outset of the discussion the Russian Ambassador raised a preliminary objection on the ground that it would weaken our action in pressing for the appointment of a High Commissioner if we approach the Porte with a scheme of reform elaborated by ourselves, and that it would be better to place our main hope upon the functionary in question himself reorganizing the country and establishing the system of government desired.

I again explained as I had already done at a previous meeting, that it was not at all in my programme to frame a cut-and-dried "Règlement" with the view of pressing it at once for acceptance on the Porte. On the contrary, I agreed with the feeling which had been expressed that, if possible, the initiative should be left to the Ottoman Government. On the other hand, I was convinced that it would be hopeless to expect the Sultan would empower any functionary himself to invent a new constitution for the Armenian provinces. His Majesty was much too jealous of his own authority to take so effectual a step for the reformation of any part of his dominions. All that I looked for from the appointment of a Commissioner, even if given considerable latitude of action, was that he should administer the existing system, such as it was, intelligently and humanely, that he should check corruption, dismiss incompetent officials, and, by his energy and authority, ensure for a time security of life and property. Any permanent amelioration in the condition of the countries in question would far more depend upon the success of our own efforts in inducing the Turks to agree to a scheme for their good government than upon the spasmodic exertions of an occasional High Commissioner. The appointment of such a person could only be regarded as a temporary and provisional expedient for palliating the present intolerable condition of affairs, and for tiding over the interval which would be certain to elapse before the Porte was itself ready with any effectual plan.

It would, I added, be very dangerous for us to place our dependence solely on the good intentions of the Ottoman Government. On the contrary, it was absolutely necessary that we should study the question in the bosom of the conference, with the view of coming to an agreement amongst ourselves, in order to judge, when the Porte produced its "projet," how far it met the requirements of the case. Again, it would be undoubtedly useful that each of us should from time to time, as occasion served, intimate to the Sultan and to his Ministers the character of the changes we recommended; but in order to do this with effect, it was essential that we ourselves should be of one mind in

regard to them. Moreover, the time might eventually come when, if the Turkish Government proved obdurate and deaf to the entreaties of Europe to put her house in order, it would be expedient for the Ambassadors to furnish the Porte with a well-considered and perfectly elaborate scheme of their own, though this was an eventuality which, for the present, it might not be necessary to consider.

M. Novikoff, while still observing that his chief reliance would be upon the Commissioner, was good enough to intimate that the explanations I had given had satisfied him as to the advisability of the proposed course; and the other Representatives having signified their concurrence, we proceeded to go through Colonel Wilson and Major Trotter's Memorandum.

The first point which gave rise to any comment was the suggestion that two Commissioners should be named instead of one, and that they should be appointed for three years. I explained fully the reasons which had inspired this recommendation, namely, the great size of the region to be dealt with, and the difficulty of passing from one part of it to another, especially in winter time, which would render it impossible for any single individual to supervise the whole.

While acknowledging the force of these considerations, all my colleagues announced their disinclination to press such an arrangement upon the Porte, urging the difficulty of finding two capable and trustworthy men in whom both they, the Sultan, and his Ministers should have equal confidence, and the possibility of complications arising through jealousies occurring between a couple of functionaries endowed with such exceptional powers, not to mention the small likelihood of obtaining the Sultan's acquiescence in their nomination.

I remarked, in reply, that from information I had received, I did not think it would be much more difficult to find two good men than one; but I admitted it might be a question whether a single appointment would not carry with it more authority and prestige than if it were doubled; and that, as the duties of the High Commissioner would be more to control than to administer, it might be possible that one person, if permitted to select his own Valis and Governors, might be sufficient for the task allotted to him. As, in any event, there will always be time to reopen this question later, I did not consider it advisable to press it further.

With regard to the nomination of the High Commissioner being for a fixed term of three years, it was observed that if this condition were attached to our demand for his appointment, it might prevent its being acceded to at all.

The next subject which occupied our attention was the question whether or no the Valis should be nominated for five years certain, and be only removable if found guilty of misconduct by a Commissioner appointed *ad hoc*. Some of my colleagues suggested that such a regulation might prove a two-edged weapon, in as much as if a bad man got into office and we demanded his removal the Turks might declare that such a proceeding would be contrary to the Statute; whereas, as things now were, the united demand of the Ambassadors could always secure the dismissal of an obnoxious functionary.

In defence of the clause, I referred to a paragraph in the note of the Powers of the 7th September, 1880, which expressly insists upon the principle in question, as was fully admitted to be the case, after the document had been consulted.

Another matter of interest was the organization of the rural police, which, the Russian Ambassador observed, as dealt with in my Consular project, rather fell short than otherwise of what had been suggested in the note of the 7th September. I replied that this had certainly not been our intention, and that I should be too happy, in conjunction with himself, to examine the point and to bring the paragraph into harmony with his own ideas.

A further subject, in regard to which M. Novikoff showed some anxiety, was that we should frame the Municipal districts, or whatever circumscriptions might be adopted, so as to separate the Kurdish nomad from the Christian sedentary population, an arrangement which, I observed, I should be too happy to concur in, so far as the geographical conditions of the problem permitted.

I then called the special attention of the Ambassadors to those clauses of the English proposal which permanently secured to the province a sufficient proportion of the revenue to cover the cost of local administration and to provide for the execution of public works, independently of any action on the part of the central authorities at Constantinople, a regulation the utility of which was at once recognized.

We then ran through the remaining clauses of the scheme, and, after a little further discussion, it was agreed that M. Novikoff and I should act as a kind of Sub-Committee, and that, having worked at the Memorandum to the best of our ability, we should again submit it to the consideration of our colleagues in a more complete shape, this arrange-

ment being prompted by the fact that only the Russian Ambassador and myself had Consular relations with the Armenian provinces, and are consequently in possession of that information which is necessary for the thorough construction of a detailed and logical "Règlement."

Having had the honour of being associated with M. Novikoff in planning the Lebanon Constitution, I have the greater pleasure in finding myself again connected with him in a joint labour of a similar though more important description.

In conclusion, I have the satisfaction of being able to assure your Lordship that, as a whole, the English project of reform for Armenia has met with the unanimous approval of the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople. At our last meeting, indeed, we were unfortunately deprived of the presence of the Austrian Ambassador; but I have reason to know that his Excellency is quite prepared to associate himself with his other colleagues in a provisional acceptation of the scheme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 152.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 862. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 4, 1881.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 861 of to-day's date, I beg to state that, in a private conversation with the Russian Ambassador on the Armenian question, his Excellency expressed some fear lest, when it became known that the Ambassadors were engaged on the question of Armenian reforms, it might create so much excitement amongst the Armenian population as to local outbreaks, or even a general insurrection. Last year, when the subject was first mooted by the European Powers, this result was upon the point of being produced. "In such an event," said his Excellency, "whether we will or no, we should have to intervene with our troops for the purpose of restoring order and of preventing the Mahommedan authorities from taking advantage of the occasion to martyrize the Christian populations."

I replied that I did not think, as far as my observation went, that such a contingency was to be dreaded, and that the Armenian Patriarch assured me that he was using every endeavour to dispel any exaggerated expectations on the part of his community, and to induce them to preserve a reserved and orderly attitude. M. Novikoff remarked that he had understood that that was so, and that he had been very glad to hear it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 153.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 869.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, October 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora, reporting that orders have been received from the Sublime Porte by the local authorities at that place directing them to make arrangements for a large increase of the civil and judicial staff of officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 116.)

Angora, September 24, 1881.

My Lord,

I BEG to inform your Excellency that an urgent telegraphic order has just been received from the Sublime Porte by the local authorities, directing them to make all necessary arrangements for a large increase to the civil and judicial staff of officials.

This addition is to consist of a Mutessarif, with a salary of 5,000 piastres per month; an Assistant Judge, with salary of similar amount; a Deputy Defterdar, or Controller of Finance, with the Council or "Medjliss" to assist each of the new officials in their decisions, and the requisite staffs of secretaries and clerks.

The writer advises you of this unexpected event with great regret, as the Government buildings, large as they are, are overcrowded with the present numerous staff, who have not sufficient work to employ their time, most of them merely putting in appearance for one or two hours daily.

I am quite at a loss to understand what work the new officials will find to do, and in the present poverty-stricken condition of the country, and the absolute collapse of the general revenue, where their appointments and salaries are to come from is a mystery.

Instead of such expensive and needless additions, I had hoped that the long-promised reform of administration would be in the direction of a greatly reduced staff and expenses rather than of making additions to it.

Another change proposed is that the Defterdar and his staff are for the future to be entirely independent of the Governor-General, and responsible solely to the Muliah direct.

This is to be regretted, as the Defterdar is an official necessarily exposed to much temptation, and his responsibility to the Governor-General has hitherto been a wholesome check on irregular proceedings.

I would add, for your Lordship's information, that the Honourable Mr. Hardinge left here on Thursday last on his way to Broussa viâ Isnik.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 154.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 871.)

Constantinople, October 7, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches to your Lordship No. 493 of the 20th June last and No. 813 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Trotter, containing some further remarks by that gentleman on Captain Clayton's statistics of the population of Van and Bitlis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 3.)

Therapia, September 29, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit a few remarks on the statistical Tables recently furnished by Captain Clayton, having reference to the population of the districts of Van and Bitlis.*

As regards the amount of credence to be attached to the figures he has given, Captain Clayton states that for Van and Hekiari he is inclined to believe that the figures are absolutely correct as far as the Armenian population is concerned, and fairly correct as regards all other sedentary inhabitants, but that the numbers given for the nomads can only be regarded as a very rough estimate.

As regards the Tables of population given for the Bitlis vilayets, Captain Clayton is of opinion that unquestionably they are not so accurate as those given for Van.

* See Part IV, Inclosure 1 in No. 135; and *ante*, Inclosures in No. 6.

I have made an abstract of Captain Clayton's Tables (corrected by subsequent information about the nomad Kurds that he has sent me in a private letter), and have tabulated them below with the statistics recently furnished to your Excellency by the Armenian Patriarch, and also with the latest Turkish official figures that I possess.

VILAYET OF VAN.

		Captain Clayton.	Patriarch.	Official.
Van and Hekiari ..	Kurds	134,078 (1)	88,017 (2)	.. 174,408
	Turks	21,629	18,929	
	Yezidis	2,500	5,860	
		158,207	112,806	
	Armenians	112,536	133,859	78,026
	Nesterians	71,037	88,338	58,700
	Jews	1,328	1,328	2,050
		185,201	223,525	138,776
		343,408	336,331	313,184

(1) Of whom 85,368 are put down as sedentary; 20,450 as spending their summer in the eastern districts but wintering in Persia; and 28,260 who summer in the southern districts but winter in the provinces of Diarbekir and Mosul.

(2) Of whom 48,650 sedentary and 39,367 nomad.

VILAYET OF BITLIS.

Bitlis and Moush ..	Armenians	103,387	119,208	93,730 (5)
	Moslems	76,188 (3)	21,000 (4)	114,396
	Armenians	42,131 (6)	..	22,450 (8)
	Moslems	48,493 (7)	..	47,098
		272,099	..	277,700

(3) Town and suburbs of Akhlat, principally Moslem, not included.
(4) The Moslem population for Bitlis and many other districts have been omitted in the Patriarch's Tables.
(5) Besides 2,028 Nestorians and 150 Syrians.
(6) Besides 798 Nestorians and 430 Syrians.
(7) Besides 8,182 Nestorians.
(8) Besides 2,417 Yezidis and 1,157 sun-worshippers.

Taking the whole of Captain Clayton's Consular district, which includes the Vilayets of Van, Hekiari, and Bitlis, we have the following comparative statistics:—

	Moslems.	Non-Moslems.
Captain Clayton	287,215 (1)	338,801 (2)
Official, per Baker Pasha	461,420	290,268
Official, per Yusuf Pasha	416,890	242,016

(1) Town and suburbs of Akhlat, principally Moslem, not included.
(2) Of whom 79,519 Nestorians.

Your Excellency will observe that Captain Clayton's figures, if reliable, would prove that in the Van Vilayet—

1. The Christians outnumbered the Moslems by about 27,000 souls.

2. The Armenians outnumber the sedentary Kurds by almost exactly the same amount.

In the Bitlis Vilayet the Armenians outnumber the Moslems by about 19,000, and the addition of the 8,000 Nestorians curiously enough gives on the same figure of 27,000 as the excess of Christians over Moslems.

With due deference to Captain Clayton's superior local knowledge, I cannot think that these statistics are correct; his figures for the Armenian population may be fairly accurate, but I am of opinion that the Moslem population, the figures for which, I believe, he derives almost entirely from Armenian sources, are very much under-estimated. Until a proper census be taken it will be impossible to arrive at the truth.

Some statistics were given lately in the "Phare du Bosphore" purporting to originate

from an official source, but which from internal evidence I judge to be the purely fictitio u concoction of some not very ingenious or well-informed individual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 155.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 872.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 7, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 826 of the 23rd ultimo, in which I forwarded to your Lordship a despatch from Major Everett on the subject of the dismissal of various judicial functionaries in Erzeroum, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I lost no time in communicating on the subject with Djevdet Pasha, the Minister of Justice, who is the immediate superior of the officials in question.

In answer to my representations on behalf of Shametdin Bey, whose high character, as reported by Major Everett, I brought earnestly to his Excellency's notice, Djevdet Pasha informed me that petitions against that functionary had been received from Erzeroum at the Ministry of Justice, and that these petitions had been referred to the Procureur-General of that place with orders to report upon them. His Excellency, however, added that in consideration of the favourable account which I had just given of him he would take care that Shametdin Bey was not unjustly dismissed from a post which he appeared to be occupying with credit.

With regard to Alexin Effendi, the Minister stated that this gentleman had always been spoken of in high terms by the Procureur-General of Erzeroum, who had on many occasions borne ample testimony to his honesty and his judicial abilities. Unfortunately, however, he had joined an Armenian meeting of some political significance, and his immediate recall had been demanded by the Governor-General of the province. He had, therefore, been superseded by Riza Bey, but his Excellency promised, in consequence of the high character given him by the Procureur-General, that he would have much pleasure in appointing him to another post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 156.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 873.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 7, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch addressed by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum to Major Trotter on the subject of a census which is being taken by the order of the Minister of War of all races throughout the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Tortoum Kaleh, September 21, 1881.*

HAVING observed a paragraph in a recent number of the "Stamboul" reporting that the Military Commissions had completed the census of the population and giving certain figures as the result, I immediately set about making inquiries both from the villagers and at Erzeroum whether any census of a special character had been taken. The villagers were for the most part ignorant of anything of the sort, but at the Armenian village of Shipek I ascertained that a census had been taken by the military authorities, as was customary every seven years. I have, however, since seen a member of the Government, from whom I have learnt that in consequence of an order from the Minister of War, the military authorities have been ordered to take a census of all races throughout the vilayet. The Osmanli portion of the population are already numbered (males only); the Armenians are in course of being numbered, but are not yet completed. Having obtained confirmation of this information from Erzeroum, it may be taken as trustworthy, it is, therefore, evident that the numbers given recently in the "Stamboul" are fictitious. I fear also, from the loose and unsystematic way in which I am given to understand the census is being taken, that the results obtained will be of no value whatever either in determining the real amount of the population, or the proportions which the different races bear to each other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 157.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 877.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 8, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral reporting on the recent changes in the administration of the Province of Angora, and the impending danger of famine.

In compliance with the suggetions made by Mr. Gatheral, I have called the attention of Abdur Rahman Pasha to the importance of stowing in time the grain that is in the fields awaiting the collection of the tithes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Angora, September 30, 1881.*

I BEG to inform your Excellency, with reference to the recent so-called reforms enacted by the Ottoman Government, that it is proposed to recommend for appointment to the new offices about to be created two resident officials, regarding whose character and capabilities it is desirable that your Excellency should have some exact information. One of these is called Aghya Effendi, at one time confidential secretary to Midhat Pasha, while the latter was Sadrazam. At the time Midhat Pasha was first banished to Europe, Aghya Effendi was sent here into a sort of honorary exile, as he was accused of having been the instrument in causing the Softa riots and tumults which caused so much sensation at the time.

After three years passed in exile here, he received a free pardon from the Sultan direct; a monthly salary was allotted him, and he was ordered to remain here till a suitable official post was found for him, and it is thought that the opportunity has now occurred, and that he should be nominated as resident Mutessarif.

Aghya Effendi is a man of good education and no small talent, has travelled much, and is acquainted with several European languages. His brother is the present Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh. His talents and attainments, however, are completely valueless owing to his unfortunate habits; he is a hopeless dipsomaniac, and has also an unfortunate relish for low intrigue of every kind, and, although without official position here, has continued to use his personal influence both in just and unjust causes with the scarcely concealed object of adding to his private means by securing bribes.

The other nominee recommended by the Vali is ——— Bey, the present "Mekhuldji," or head of the Correspondence Department. He also was sent here two years ago in disgrace, he having previously been one of the Sultan's secretaries; it was alleged at the time that his disgrace was owing to complicity in a plot against the Sultan; he himself has, however, assured me that his only fault was having been unfortunate enough one day to be in liquor during official hours, and reported to the Sultan by a Chamberlain who was his enemy, and that the Sultan refused to overlook the fault.

From his avowal your Excellency can infer that he also is addicted to drinking, and he is, besides, of a singularly weak and pliable nature—too good-natured to refuse anything, and too feeble to accomplish anything.

I leave your Excellency to judge how far the interests of this vilayet are likely to be furthered, if either of these persons are appointed to the vacant post.

With regard to the state of the population generally, and the danger of impending famine, I regret to have to inform your Excellency that very little progress is being made in averting the danger. Special Commissions hold many meetings, long consultations take place, between officials, conferences between Commission and Administrative Council take place, numerous special officers are sent in all directions, and, still more, telegrams are received and dispatched. All this preparatory work has already occupied two months, and still goes on; winter rapidly approaches and nothing is yet done. Official routine has been further elaborated by the appointment of a Special Commission, called the "Angora Famine Commission," at Constantinople, under the presidency of Abdur Rahman Pasha, an ex-Vali of the vilayet, who was appointed here during the famine of 1873-74, and, by his energy and capacity, did much to mitigate the disaster. This Commission is to control and assist the action of the local authorities, and I would most respectfully suggest to your Excellency, should you think it desirable to communicate with the President, and urge upon him, in order to save life and prevent much suffering, to induce the local authorities to authorize the collection of the grain which still remains in the open fields awaiting the collection of the tithe, and therefore every day in danger of being damaged or lost, and the storing of this grain in suitable granaries all over the district which has been devastated by the locusts.

This is the first and most essential measure, but it seems to be in danger of being overlooked, or left till too late.

The Vali Pasha having returned to his vilayet head-quarters I continue to use my personal influence and every argument I can think of to hasten decision with regard to this important matter; but I am sorry to have to add that my representations do not have the attention paid them that I think they deserve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 158.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 878. Very Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 8, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a Confidential Report on the proposed Concession of a railway from Constantinople to Bagdad, with the amendments suggested by the Tophané Commission and by the Minister for War, which has reached my hands in an exceptional manner.

The document is a very interesting one, but for your Lordship's convenience I inclose a short abstract of the proposed Concession, and of the amendments suggested by the Turkish Government, which has been drawn up for me by Mr. Sartoris.

It is to be observed that the Tophané Commission recommend that the Minister for Foreign Affairs should be requested to make inquiries in regard to the antecedents and solvency of Dr. Strousberg.

It is stated in the papers to-day that Mr. Noring, the representative of the Company, is gone to Berlin to forward the negotiations.

It might be well that inquiries should be instituted at Berlin in reference to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

BAGDAD RAILWAY CONCESSION.

General Abstract of Conditions proposed by M. Strousberg and Tophané Commission.

M. Strousberg's Terms.	*Tophané Commission's Terms.*
CONCESSION for the construction of a railway from Scutari to Bagdad and Bassorah for ninety-nine years; at the end of which time the railroad and rolling stock	THE railway to belong unconditionally to the Government at the end of ninety-nine years.

M. Strousberg's Terms.	*Tophané Commission's Terms.*
will belong to the Ottoman Government, on condition that, if at the end of the term there should be a deficit, the Government should either make it good or prolong the Concession.	
Exemption from taxation.	
Right to cut wood for railway in the State forests.	This clause to be limited as regards the right to cut wood, and so as to respect private rights.
The line to be completed and opened within fifteen years from the issue of the Firman granting the Concession.	Term for construction of line to be shortened by dividing the line into sections.
	If not completed within the time specified, the works to be confiscated by the Government.
	A guarantee is required from the Company.
Right to establish a bank, or "Caisse d'Administration," under the name of "Banque Allemande."	The "Banque Allemande" to be called the "Banque du Chemin de Fer d'Asie Mineure." The line to be called the "Asia Minor Railway Company."
Arrangements as regards police.	Police arrangements to be the same as on other railways in the Empire.
Free grant of land to railway.	Only land necessary for railway to be granted as expropriated.
Right to expropriate private landowners.	
Right to use quarries if State property, and to buy stones from private quarries.	
The Company to give at the end of each year one quarter of the profits to the Government, after deduction of working expenses, interest, and sinking fund.	The Commission wishes to know what the Company estimate the amount of working, interest, and sinking fund to be.
The Company to establish telegraphs along the line, and to take all profits from the working of the telegraphs and posts on the line.	To be modified so as to bring the telegraphs and posts under Government control.
Right to construct branch lines.	
The Ottoman Government not to grant any further Concessions for the construction of railways in Asia Minor after the issue of the Firman to others than to the Company.	
Freedom of internal administration of Company, and right to sublet portions of the Concession.	
Right to import material for railroad free of duty.	To be subject to the same rules as regards customs as other railways.
Right to establish manufactories along the line, work mines, issue shares, and establish "tirages de loterie."	The Company must conform itself to the "Règlement des Mines."
The line from Scutari to Angora, Sivas, Diarbekir, Mossoul, Bagdad, and Bassorah.	(See observations of Ministry of War and Tophané Commission at the end.)
The Company to be responsible for all delays in the execution of works.	This must be so worded as to show clearly that the Company is alone responsible for delays.
The breadth of the line to be 100 metres.	Space between the lines, &c., to be fixed by Ministry of Public Works.
	The Company to accept the Concession for the Haidar Pasha Railway.
	The Company not to transport troops for a foreign Government without permission.
	Conditions as to price of transport and

M. Strousberg's Terms.

The Ministry of War recommends as a good strategical line—Scutari, Ismid, Eski-Shehir, Angora, Kirchekir, Kaisariyeh, Elbistan, Diarbekir, Mossoul, Nocrête, Bagdad.

For the portion of the line between Mossoul and Bagdad the Ministry of War recommends that the line should follow the right bank of the Tigris, as being the most easily defended, though the left bank is at present at least best cultivated.

It also recommends branch lines to Sivas and Erzeroum and elsewhere, but above all a branch line from Elbistan, by Marash and Aleppo, to the Gulf of Alexandretta.

Tophané Commission's Terms.

war material; as to use of line in time of war.

M. Strousberg's proposal for the establishment of a colony of Mussulman refugees in the waste lands between the Tigris and Euphrates to be considered when the line is completed.

The Tophané Commission fully recognize the value of the proposed railway, and acknowledge the inability on the part of the Government to undertake its construction themselves.

It has consulted the Ministry of War as to its opinion of the railway in a strategical point of view, with the following results:—

The Tophané Commission agrees to the line proposed by the Ministry of War as far as Mossoul.

The Commission points out that the left bank of the Tigris is not well cultivated, but it recommends that the line should follow that bank by Erbil, Altenkeupru, Guergong, to Bagdad.

It approves of the branch line from Elbistan to the Gulf of Alexandretta.

It points out that the line to Bassorah would entail needless expense on the Company, and recommends Koroun (Korna), at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates, as the best terminus.

Consequently the line should cross the Tigris below Bagdad, and pass between the two rivers past Messieh Hillah, near Divaniyeh, Semad, cross the Montefik country, and reach Koroun on the bank of the Djeziret-ul-Arak. It leaves to the option of the Company the choice of the spot between Bassorah and Koroun, where the line will end.

Mention is also made of a branch line from Messiyeh to Kerbela.

Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

Extract from "La Turquie" of October 7, 1881.

M. NORING, représentant de la Société Allemande, qui sollicite la concession du chemin de fer de Constantinople à Bagdad, quitte aujourd'hui notre ville. M. Noring se rend à Berlin pour remplir les dernières formalités nécessaires à cette concession.

No. 159.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 688.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, reporting on the depredations of the Kurds near Mush and the intended transfer of the Shikak Kurds to the neighbourhood of Mardin.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from Major Trotter commenting on the latter part of Captain Clayton's despatch.

I have thought it right to address a note in strong terms to the Sublime Porte, repeating the statement in the first part of Captain Clayton's despatch, and commenting on the intolerable character of the proceedings recorded and the cruelty of allowing them to continue.

With regard to the proposed transfer of the Shikaks to Mardin, I have also addressed a note to the Sublime Porte, stating that if this emigration is authorized, the least that can be expected is that the Imperial Government should see that there is a proper person in charge of the vilayet to prevent the consequences which would be sure, under the present weak and incompetent Governor, to ensue from the plantation of a tribe of fierce nomads amongst an industrious sedentary population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 159.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 40.)

Sir, *Van, September 12, 1881.*

IN my despatch No. 38 of the 18th August, 1881, I reported the misdoings of the nomad Békiranli Kurds near Mush, and the expressed intention of the Government to send troops against them. I have to-day received a communication from Mush, from a person in whom I have confidence, saying that the troops obtained from the Békiranlis written promises to pay 5,000 piastres as compensation for damage done and 5,000 piastres more as a *douceur* to the officials, and took no further notice of their doings. The consequence was that the Kurds sent to six Christian villages in Shattak to say that, as the Christians had complained to Government, they must pay for the loss that the Kurds had suffered in consequence. On receiving this message the people of these villages fled to Pirnaschen, taking with them their cattle, but leaving their as yet unharvested crops and their houses with all their contents. Other villages have also been threatened by the nomads, and nightly they descend to Mush Plain and carry off booty, but of all this the Government take not the slightest notice. I have heard similar accounts from another source. I propose to telegraph to the Vali of Bitlis to call his attention to the matter, as it seems as if the Kurds were more troublesome and daring this autumn than usual.

As regards the state of the Persian frontier, the Vali of Van has informed me that Ali Khan and the Shikaks are on this side of the frontier, and have implored the protection of the Turkish Government. The Persians have demanded that they should be given up, but the Turkish Government cannot consent to hand over those who have thrown themselves on its compassion, and therefore at present a cordon is formed round the position occupied by the Shikaks to prevent them from plundering, and it is proposed, after disarming them, to transfer them under strong escort to the country in the neighbourhood of Mardin, where there is said to be plenty of room for immigrants. His Excellency further said that he had received a Report from Moussa Pasha, commanding the troops in the vilayet, who is now at Bashkala, to the effect that matters were now quiet in the frontier districts.

At this time of year the Kurds are always more or less troublesome, for they are in the habit of making provision for the winter by plunder before the snow comes on the mountains and closes the roads, but they seem, in some parts at all events, to be worse than usual this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 159.

Major Trotter to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 4. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 6*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose two copies of a despatch from Captain Clayton, giving an account of the depredations of nomad Kurds in the Mush Sandjak, also of the arrangements contemplated with regard to the frontier tribe of Shikaks.

From a private letter received this day from Captain Clayton, of date the 20th September, I learn that on that day the Shikaks were to start for Mardin (in the Diarbekir Vilayet). They are believed to have about 2,000 tents, so that the population thus permanently transferred from Persian to Turkish territory will amount to some 14,000 souls.

As the Shikaks have a bad reputation, and are, I believe, a purely nomad tribe, I fear their presence in the Diarbekir Vilayet will add considerably to the disorders of that badly-governed province. It is thus specially important that the present incompetent Vali, Izzet Pasha, be replaced by a good man without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 159.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, October 9, 1881.

HER Majesty's Embassy has the honour to call the serious attention of the Sublime Porte to the following information, which has been received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consulate at Van.

In consequence of some misdoings of the nomad Békiranli Kurds near Mush, the local military authorities decided to send some troops against them. It would appear, however, that, instead of carrying out the orders of the Imperial authorities, the troops obtained from the Békiranlis written promises to pay 5,000 piastres as compensation for damage done, and 5,000 piastres more as a *douceur* to the officials, and took no more notice of the doings of the Kurds.

The consequence was that the latter sent to six Christian villages in Shattuk to say that, as the Christians had complained to the Government, they must pay for the loss that the Kurds had in consequence suffered.

On receiving this message the people of these villages fled to Pirnaschen, taking with them their cattle, but leaving their as yet unhoused crops and the contents of their homes a prey to these robbers. It would seem that other villages are also threatened by Kurds, who descend into the Mush Plain at night and carry off their booty without the authorities taking any notice of their proceedings.

Her Majesty's Embassy begs to remind the Sublime Porte that for the last three months it has been receiving constantly-repeated assurances of the intention of the Ottoman Government at last to put a stop to the insupportable state of things of which the foregoing circumstance is a sample. It is quite intolerable that such cruelty and injustice should be allowed to continue in the teeth of the positive promises made by the Porte, and ratified by Treaty, to proceed to the speedy amelioration of the condition of the Christian subjects of His Majesty in the eastern parts of Asia Minor.

Inclosure 4 in No. 159.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, October 9, 1880.

INFORMATION has reached Her Majesty's Embassy that it is the intention of the Sublime Porte to transport the Shikak Kurds who have recently crossed the frontier from Persia to the country in the neighbourhood of Mardin, in the Diarbekir Vilayet. These Kurds are believed to number some 14,000 souls. They have a very bad reputation, and are, it is believed, a purely nomadic tribe.

In bringing this subject to the notice of the Sublime Porte, Her Majesty's Embassy would suggest that, if this emigration is authorized, the least that can be expected is that the Ottoman Government will see that an energetic officer is placed in charge of the

vilayet, to prevent the consequences which would be otherwise sure to ensue from th plantation of a tribe of fierce nomads amongst an industrious sedentary population.

No. 160.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 892).
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10*, 1881.

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch to your Lordship No. 370 of the 10th May, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Major Everett, in a despatch dated the 9th ultimo, states that the papers taken from Ghaziros Effendi have not yet been restored. He further states that he had written, a few days previously, a letter to the Vali, begging him to forward them to him if he had obtained them from the Mutessarif, but that up to the date of his despatch he had received no answer to his letter.

I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that the Minister for Foreign Affairs gave orders on the 4th instant, in the presence of Sir Alfred Sandison, that the instructions already sent to the Governor of Erzeroum for the surrender of the papers to Ghaziros Effendi should be repeated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 161.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 416.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 14*, 1881.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 425 of the 6th instant, inclosing copy of the Earl of Dufferin's No. 821 of the 20th ultimo, on the subject of the proposed railway from Constantinople to Bagdad, and Dr. Strousberg's and M. de Bleichröder's connection with the scheme, and instructing me to make inquiries as to the degree of interest Prince Bismarck may take in the affair, I have the honour to state in reply that Prince Bismarck takes no interest whatever in the scheme, with which Herr von Bleichröder is in no way connected, and that Dr. Strousberg, who has petitioned the Porte for the concession, is aware that, as a speculation, it can have no success in Germany, but reckons on the attraction a railway from Constantinople to Bagdad may have for British capital to carry it out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 162.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 909.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 14*, 1881.

I HAVE the honour of sending you some very interesting notes of a journey made by the Hon. Charles Hardinge, an Attaché of this Embassy, from Ineboli to Broussa viâ Angora.

An excellent description of the country he traversed is given in a few succinct paragraphs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Mr. Hardinge to the Earl of Dufferin.

Therapia, October 12, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency a few notes on my journey to and from Angora.

I landed from the steamer at Ineboli, and I took the direct road to Angora, which passes through Kostambol and Tchangra.

The town of Ineboli is well placed at the foot of some high hills, facing the sea. It has a very new appearance, the houses having been mostly built during the last year, in the place of those destroyed by a disastrous fire which took place about a year ago owing to the carelessness of some soldiers. Although there might be a considerable export from Ineboli of the produce of the fertile country around it, yet at present it is very small, owing to the want of a good harbour, and the consequent difficulty of embarking and disembarking merchandize when the sea is at all rough. There were the usual complaints of the incapacity and lack of energy of the Turkish officials, the inhabitants of this little town being continually disturbed by house robberies at night.

On leaving Ineboli the road rises gradually for the space of three hours over some very high hills, completely covered by fine forest trees. This forest, which possesses great riches in timber, is being gradually spoilt by the want of competent people to look after it, and by the wanton waste of the inhabitants of the country, who have felled a great number of trees and partially burnt them as firewood as they lay on the ground. In some places the trees have been felled for a considerable area, and lie rotting on the ground.

Eight hours from Ineboli there is a village called Keuresi, where there are some rich copper-mines. These mines had been worked some hundreds of years ago, and a few years ago the Turks recommenced to work them. Instead of sinking new shafts, they worked the old shafts, and exerted themselves to extract from the old shafts what their forefathers had left owing to their ignorance and lack of good tools for working the mine. Hence, as may be imagined, the profits were very small, and it was found not to pay, and the works were stopped. No attempt was made to try what could be done with new shafts.

From Keuresi the road passes through the forest afresh, until it leaves the ridge of the mountain and descends into the plain. At the foot of the mountains are some very rich and green valleys, studded with Turkish villages; the fields full of oxen, and a vast number of Angora goats. The valleys gave me the impression of being excessively well cultivated, considering what few modern appliances the villagers possess for tilling the land. After traversing these sunny valleys, the road passes through a bleak and arid country, which shows evident signs of former volcanic eruptions, until it enters what is known as the Uzun Dere, a very fertile valley stretching right away to the foot of the hill on the other side of which is the city of Kostambol.

The city of Kostambol is built in a hollow, surrounded on all sides by hills, and traversed by a very good stream of water. On the hill above the town are the very picturesque ruins of the old fort. The city is not at all remarkable in itself; there are no public monuments, and no big mosques, and the greater part of the town is in terrible want of repair both as regards houses and streets. This is a town in which, if the Turks ever retire from it, there will not remain a single vestige of the greatness of their former Empire. At Kostambol there is a considerable Greek and Armenian population, but Turkish is their natural language, and but very few can speak, or even understand, their national tongue. There is a Greek church there, where the ritual is always in Greek, but I was assured that there is hardly anybody who goes there who understands what is being said.

From Kostambol to Tchangra the road passes by Bostan Keui and Kotchissar, and this journey can be done very comfortably in three days. Near Bostan Keui there is a very high mountain to be crossed. Here the scenery is very fine, the sides of the mountain being covered nearly to the peak with a very luxuriant pine forest. The road is about as bad as it is possible to be, and I can only liken it to walking up the dry bed of a trout-stream. It was certainly better in the plain on the other side, but even then far from good. Formerly there had been an excellent road, but long-continued neglect, together with streams of water in the winter, had carried away the road in several places, and most of the bridges were broken down. After crossing the mountain the road traverses a succession of very dry arid plains, which stretch as far as Tchangra. In the middle of one of these plains stands the village of Kotchissar, head-quarters of one of the battalions of

Redifs which had returned from Thessaly. Here they had come to restore their arms and uniforms previous to being disbanded.

The town of Tchangra is built in a very good position, being partly in a valley and partly on the side of a mountain. It is not an inviting town, the streets being narrow and badly paved, and the houses squalid. The prettiest part of the town are the gardens, which are well cultivated, and produce every kind of fruit in great luxuriance. The town suffers a great disadvantage in being without a supply of good water, and also in being very feverish.

There is a considerable Greek and Armenian population in the town, and here also, as I had found at Kostambol, on making inquiries, the Christians live on very good terms with their Mussulman neighbours, and suffer no disadvantage in any way owing to their creed. The Mutessarif seems to be very unpopular, but his son is very much liked.

I was shown the prisons of the town, which consisted of four small rooms full of malefactors, wearing heavy chains. The filth and stench in these rooms were insupportable, and well calculated to breed some loathsome disease. I am happy to say that the authorities have already recognized the necessity of enlarging the prison accommodation, and building has already commenced.

I must not forget to mention a little incident that occurred at Tchangra. On my arrival I noticed a great number of men and boys sweeping the streets. Knowing this to be unusual, I inquired of one of the officials the reason. His answer was that a short time ago an Englishman had passed through the town and had noticed the filthy condition of the streets, and they were unwilling that I should have cause to make the same remark.

From Tchangra to Angora it is two days' journey across a country which is ordinarily fertile, but where everything has been this year devoured by the locusts, nothing being left behind. In consequence of the ravages of these insects the unfortunate peasants have nothing to keep themselves on through the winter, and already in the villages on the road distress is beginning to be felt. A great deal of the cattle is already dying, and those who are owners of any are trying to sell them, as it is impossible to find food for them during the winter. If the winter is a severe one, and if the Government does not come forward and distribute corn to the people gratuitously, there will be a terrible famine and great suffering. It will be of no use sending corn for the people to buy, however cheap it may be, as the peasants have no money to buy it with. It has been calculated that 400,000*l.* will be required to keep off the famine that is imminent.

The town of Angora is very much like other Oriental towns, the houses being old and picturesque, and the streets very dirty and badly paved. There are some very picturesque ruins of the old castle that was built on the rock above the town, but they are fast falling to pieces. The greatest curiosity in Angora is the ruin of an old temple dedicated to Augustus and Rome, which now adjoins the biggest mosque in the town. The ruins are in a wonderful state of preservation, the Latin inscriptions being still perfectly legible, and several of the sculptured cornices intact. The interior is now a Turkish burying-ground, in a disgraceful state of neglect. There are also two very curiously-sculptured marble lions on the top of the hill, one of them being of colossal size, the other of life size.

The climate of Angora is far from healthy. There are seven or eight months of vigorous winter, and in summer there is a great deal of fever amongst the inhabitants, even amongst those who live high upon the rock, for the south wind brings the miasma which rises from the marshes outside the town to every part of the city.

The staple trade of Angora is in mohair goats. At this time this trade is in a very bad state, the price of mohair being one-third of what it used to be a few years ago. This is to be attributed to the fact that mohair is out of fashion for ladies' dresses.

What is greatly felt at Angora is the need of a railway to Ismidt, all merchandize for exportation being at present sent to Ismidt on mules. This is naturally an expensive and unsatisfactory method of transport.

Camels are also of great use in this part of the world as beasts of burden. They are especially useful in winter, when there is much snow on the ground, and when other beasts of burden are unable to walk.

Angora is blessed at present with a very active Vali. He is a very old man—so old, it is said, that when he wishes to move one leg, a servant has to do it for him; but his mental capacity is unimpaired, and he administers the province with great vigour and energy.

The presence of an English Vice-Consul, and also the remembrance of the removal of the late Defterdar by Sir H. Layard, has had a beneficial effect upon the authorities as regards their treatment of the Christians, who live here now on friendly terms with their Mussulman neighbours.

From Angora to Beibazar it is two days' journey across the plain, the only variation being the crossing of the mountain near Ajasch. On this side also the locusts had committed great devastation, and it was even hard to get food for my horses.

I had intended to return to Broussa viâ Torbally and Taraklâ, but I was persuaded by the Kaïmakan of Beibazar to change my journey in the direction of Eski-Shehir, on account of the dangerous state of the road near Torbally, there being a band of brigands close to that place.

From Beibazar to Eski-Shehir there are three days' journey across a flat, sandy plain, with the exception of a range of mountains near Moualitch.

Moualitch was formerly a principality stretching as far as Broussa, and governed by a Greek Prince named Mikhal, from whom it received the name Mikhalitch, which was afterwards converted into Moualitch.

The hills near Moualitch are rich with mines of various sorts, silver, copper, coal, and fuller's earth being the principal ones. At present there is only one mine worked, and that is the mine of fuller's earth. The silver mine was once worked, but the person who worked it had taken out a Firman for it as a copper mine, and when the authorities heard that it was silver that he was extracting from the ground they stopped the working of the mine until he he had got a new Firman, and he has not got one yet.

On the road to Eski-Shehir the villages that we passed were mostly Circassian, there being very few Turkish villages in this district. The Circassian villages are very easily recognized, the houses being of quite a different structure to the ordinary Turkish house. As a race, the Circassians are splendidly fine men, but generally great thieves.

While I was at Eski-Shehir the Turkish villagers came in in the morning complaining that they had been robbed of everything they possessed by the Circassians, who live in a small village a few miles outside the town. These Circassians, who are great scoundrels, are masters of the position, as there are no troops in the district, and not enough zaptiehs to keep them in order. I asked a Turkish villager why they do not show resistance and shoot a few of these marauders, but he answered that he might shoot a Circassian whose sister was in a Pasha's harem, and that whether he had been right or wrong he would have to pay the penalty for doing so by spending the rest of his days in prison. The following day I had my luncheon in this Circassian village, and they showed me the greatest hospitality.

The town of Eski-Shehir is a very rich town, its sources of wealth being some meerschaum mines, and a considerable trade in opium and other native products. I was informed that the export from this town amounts to about 400,000*l.* per annum, and that this increases annually. The town is clean but not healthy, there being a great deal of fever in the low-lying parts. The population of the town is very mixed, Circassians, Kurds, and Tartars being quite as numerous as Turks. The town is blessed with a very good Kaïmakam, Hussein Husni Bey, who is much liked by the Christians, owing to the justice that is dealt them by him, and he is consequently despised by the Turks of the city, who, urged on by the Mufti, are fanatical in the extreme. This Mufti, according to all accounts, seems to be a *mauvais sujet*, being very fanatical, and availing himself of every opportunity of exercising his power by harassing the Christians.

From Eski-Shehir to Broussa it is three days' journey across a mountainous country. Here as far as Ajnegöl the roads are very unsafe, being infested with Circassian brigands, and the greatest anarchy prevails in this district. At Bozuck, a village on the road, the Mudir complained to me bitterly that he was powerless to keep the brigands in check, and that although he had repeatedly applied for a force of zaptiehs he had only succeeded in obtaining a single unarmed zaptieh. Round Broussa the country is too well known to require description by me.

Before concluding, I wish to place on record the extreme kindness and hospitality that I experienced from the Turkish officials that I happened to meet at the different places that I stopped at on the road. Their hospitality knew no limits, and it was such as I had never experienced before.

I trust that your Excellency may not find these notes too long, and that they may be of some small interest, being the impressions of a traveller for the first time in the interior of Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

No. 163.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 716.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1881.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 834 of the 25th ultimo, respecting the abduction in the Khudavendikyar Vilayet of a Circassian woman and her two children, and inclosing copy of a despatch from Colonel Warlow, giving a résumé of the case, and reporting a conversation he had had with the Vali on the subject.

I approve the representation which your Excellency made to the Minister of the Interior on the receipt of Colonel Warlow's despatch, and I have to request that you will inform that officer that his efforts to obtain the release of the captives have my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 164.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 717.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 21, 1881.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 836 of the 24th ultimo, inclosing copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia reporting upon the trial of some Armenians who were imprisoned after a riot which occurred at Sivas in 1880, and I approve the terms of the note which your Excellency addressed to the Porte in consequence of the unsatisfactory action of the Turkish authorities in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 165.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, October 22.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le 11 Octobre*, 1881.

J'AI reçu et communiqué au Ministère de la Justice la dépêche que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 20 Avril dernier, ainsi que le recueil y annoncé des Rapports Consulaires sur l'administration de la justice dans l'Empire.

Le ton général de ces Rapports nous est éminemment défavorable. On dirait que les auteurs ont tenu à juger tout dans un esprit de dénigrement.

Certes, l'œuvre de réorganisation judiciaire entreprise par le Gouvernement Impérial demande à être complétée; mais ce qui a été fait jusqu'ici nous autorisait à nous attendre à des appréciations plus bienveillantes. L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a été, nous sommes heureux de le constater, moins sévère sous ce rapport. Tout dernièrement encore Lord Dufferin rendait justice au fonctionnement des Tribunaux de Trébizonde.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 166.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, October 22.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le 13 Octobre*, 1881.

J'AI reçu la dépêche que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 11 Août dernier, ainsi que le recueil de documents y annoncé, concernant la situation des populations de l'Asie Mineure et de la Syrie.

J'ai fait examiner un à un tous ces documents, vu l'importance des matières dont ils traitent. A côté de certaines appréciations impartiales, se révèlent souvent des exagérations injustifiables.

Sans vouloir énumérer les nombreux exemples qui corroborent notre assertion, nous

nous bornons à constater que le recueil dont il s'agit ne dénote pas certainement une connaissance exacte des hommes et des choses de notre pays.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 167.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 722.)
Foreign Office, October 22, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 831, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, informing me that you have received a promise from the Minister of Justice that the Procureur-General of Sivas shall be dismissed; and I am glad to learn that there is a prospect of the removal of that functionary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 168.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 916.)
Therapia, October 15, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the concluding paragraphs of the despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora, inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 877 of the 8th ultimo, in which attention was called to the inadequate steps that are being taken in the Vilayet of Angora to prevent the spread of the impending famine, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have communicated on this subject with his Excellency Abdurrahman Pasha, the President of the Angora Famine Commission referred to by Mr. Gatheral.

In order that his Excellency might fully understand the gravity of the circumstances, I caused certain portions of Mr. Gatheral's despatch to be read to him, and called his special attention to that gentleman's remarks respecting the grain which is left in the open fields awaiting the collection of tithes.

Abdurrahman Pasha stated, in reply, that it was a fact that there had been some delay in collecting the tithes owing to the illness of the Vali of the vilayet, but that the Sublime Porte intended to send a special officer to the district to inquire into the state of affairs.

Upon my urging upon his Excellency the necessity of taking speedy and effectual measures to avert the impending famine, he replied that, although he was himself of the opinion that there was no danger whatever of a recurrence of the famine which took place in 1873-74, he fully realized the fact that no time should be lost in gathering in the grain, and promised to telegraph instructions to that effect to the local authorities at Angora.

His Excellency also stated that he would endeavour to see the Prime Minister or the Minister of the Interior at once on the subject, and concluded by thanking me warmly for having communicated to him Mr. Gatheral's statements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 169.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 922.)
Therapia, October 18, 1881.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I reminded Said Pasha that the month within which the Sultan had promised to appoint a High Commissioner for the Eastern Provinces of Asia Minor was drawing to a close, and that I was beginning to be anxious on the subject. His Highness

replied that the matter had been for some time past under consideration, and that he thought he could assure me that His Majesty's promise should be duly fulfilled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 170.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 924. Confidential.)
Therapia, October 18, 1881.

My Lord,

SAID PASHA told me yesterday that the Porte had come to the conclusion to get rid of the Vali of Sivas, who was one of those persons whose incompetence I had brought to the notice of the Foreign Minister. His Highness added, of his own accord, that he hoped to be able to pursue the same course with reference to the Vali of Diarbekir, but that there were personal considerations in his case which rendered the matter more difficult to deal with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 171.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 723.)
Foreign Office, October 26, 1881.

My Lord,

I APPROVE the notes your Excellency has addressed to the Sublime Porte, copies of which are inclosed in your despatch No. 888 of the 9th instant, on the subject of the depredations committed by the Kurds near Mush, and the intended transfer of the Shikak Kurds to the neighbourhood of Mardin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 172.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 934.)
Therapia, October 22, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a Report which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Beyrout on the general state of affairs in the Vilayet of Syria.

As regards the acts of injustice committed by the Law Courts and the unsatisfactory manner in which justice is administered in Syria, I have the honour to state that, in recently laying before the Sublime Porte the complaints of the Church Missionary Society at Nazareth, I took the opportunity of calling the serious attention of the Ottoman Government to the state of affairs as described by Mr. Dickson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 172.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 46.)
Beyrout, October 5, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following Report on the general state of affairs in the Vilayet of Syria.

With the exception of the troubles in the Hauran, which occurred about the beginning of the year, the state of Syria during the last twelve months may be considered as having been quiet, and good order has, on the whole, been maintained

throughout the province. Previous to the arrival of the present Wali, a certain amount of discontent manifested itself in Beyrout, Damascus, and elsewhere, and placards crying down the Government occasionally appeared, but of late, owing to the vigilance of the Governor-General, this insurrectionary spirit has died out.

The administration of the country, however, cannot be considered as satisfactory, nor can the people, in this respect, be looked upon as in a better condition than in other parts of Turkey. The state of the Law Courts is worse than it ever was before, and complaints of want of justice are continually being made. The power over the Law Courts formerly possessed to a certain extent by the Governors of provinces and districts no longer exists, and they are obliged to turn a deaf ear to all appeals made to them for redress, even in cases of glaring miscarriage of justice. From what I can ascertain I believe neither the Wali nor the Mutessarifs are pleased at this want of control over the Tribunals, for they are held responsible for disorders that may occur, and are generally blamed when acts of injustice are committed by the Law Courts. As an instance of the inefficiency of the judicial system, I may mention that the present Inspector of Justice for Syria, who was appointed to the office a few weeks ago, has only had three months' experience in the practice of law. At Acre one of the judicial functionaries of considerable standing is well known to be a madman. Judicial appointments are made direct from the Ministry of Justice at the capital, and such instances as those above quoted will show the carelessness with which important posts are given away in the provinces by the Central Government. A few days ago a native Protestant of Nazareth had a pecuniary claim against another native, and cited him before the Court of the district, but lost the case. He appealed to the Commercial Court of Beyrout, which cancelled the decision of the Court at Nazareth, and gave a Judgment in his favour. On his return to Nazareth, he found that his adversary had drawn a bill upon him for a certain sum of money, and on his refusing to accept it, he was summoned by the Court, condemned, and imprisoned; and I have since learnt that, whilst in prison, one of his children has died, and his family are in great distress. This is an example of what occurs in the administration of justice under the present system.

The state of the country in the central districts has been satisfactory, and during a recent excursion which I made in the anti-Lebanon and Bekaa, I noticed that the inhabitants were quiet and peaceful. The harvest was plentiful, but a large quantity of grain had been destroyed in the Bekaa by fires, supposed to have been caused by the excessive dryness and heat of the summer. Very good accounts reached me of Government of Baalbec under the present Kaimakam, Mahmoud Bey El Youssef. I had the honour in my despatch No. 29 of the 23rd April, 1880, to mention the appointment of this Governor, and of the satisfaction it had given. I am happy to be able to state to your Excellency that he retains his character for honesty and energy, and is almost worshipped by the peasantry. He is wealthy, and spends a considerable portion of his income in charity, and in carrying out improvements at Baalbec. In his district the sale of the tithes realized about the same amount as last year, namely, 1,550,000 piastres. In the Bekaa, however, they were sold for only half what they fetched the previous year.

In the north of Syria the state of affairs does not appear to be so satisfactory as in the rest of the province, though on the whole the Ansaryehs remain quiet. In June last there were some slight troubles amongst these people in the vicinity of Hamah, but the dispatch of troops to the spot soon restored order. The mountaineers of Kelbié, however, are in the habit of refusing to pay taxes to the authorities at Gebélé, and the Ansaryehs around Lattakia do not either furnish recruits for the army or submit to the Government imposts. The authority of the Government in this part of Syria appears to be maintained with difficulty.

The reports which reach me from Sidon and other places in the south of Syria would show that in these districts there have been several cases of disorder, though not of any great importance. During the past year a considerable number of robberies and two or three murders have occurred in the Merj-Ayoun and the vicinity of Sidon, but these parts have always been noted as troublesome in consequence of the animosity which exists between the Druzes and Metualis, and of the fanaticism that prevails amongst the inhabitants of Sidon. The state of matters in general, however, cannot be said to be worse than usual. Very recently a slight disturbance took place at Tyre between some Christian boatmen and the police, but I am glad to inform your Excellency that no serious results ensued.

During the past summer both his Highness Hamdi Pasha and the Governor of Beyrout made tours of inspection in the country. The former proceeded to Lattakia

with the object of taking measures for the better government of the Ansaryehs, and of inquiring into the general state of the administration in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 173.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 935.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 23, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 877 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora regarding the administration of justice in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 148.)
My Lord, *Angora, October 15, 1881.*

I BEG to inform your Excellency that the administration of justice in this vilayet has, for some time past, been thoroughly disorganized, and is at present in a condition that can only be described as chaotic.

In June 1879 the administration of justice of this province was reorganized in common with that of the whole Empire, the most important modifications in that scheme of so-called reform being that the Courts of Justice were placed outside the influence of the Governor-General, being only responsible to the Central Bureau at Constantinople.

The granting of such practical independence to these Courts was much deprecated at the time, not only by the writer, but by nearly all my Consular colleagues, as we foresaw that the influence of the Governor-General, which had hitherto been some sort of check on bribery and corruption, would be no longer available; and the work of a Consul become much more difficult, because the influence he was formerly able to exert through the Vali was to a great extent lost. All the evils predicted as likely to result from the new system have been fully verified during the two years which have since passed.

The Courts referred to for this province are as follows:—

1. The "Divan Machkemey Istenafi," or Court of Appeal in all disputed decisions of the lower Tribunals, at present presided over by Mehmet Azis Bey, who is Hakim or Cadi.

2. "Machkemey Bedayet," or Court of First Instance, divided into two departments, viz., "Genayet," or criminal charges, President, Beder Khan Bey Zadé; and "Hukuk," or civil justice, President, Latif Bey.

The three Presidents referred to have the assistance of a Council of four members, elected bi-annually, one member of each Council being a Christian. These Councillors are elected from the Notables of the locality, and are salaried officials. Having little or no legal training or experience, their advice is of little practical value; they stand in great awe of the President, and, as a rule, assent with alacrity to whatever he proposes, no matter how irregular. The three Presidents referred to have, since their appointments, been on the most intimate private terms with each other, and it is quite notorious that they have formed a sort of judicial "ring," and come to private understandings with each other regarding the conduct of every case brought before them, with the scarcely disguised object of adding to their private means by the receipt of indirect payments from suitors.

The evils of such a system are manifold; the simplest cases that, in a European Court, would be settled in the course of a few hours, are kept in suspense for months, and even years; when a verdict to satisfy a favourite client is required, the most extraordinary ingenuity is shown in arresting the law to suit their purposes; and when, by rare chance, a just and equitable verdict is recorded, it is more than suspected that it is

simply because the full value has been paid for it, in money or merchandize, by the fortunate client. Justice has accordingly become a luxury, that can only be secured by the rich, whilst the poor villager, or grazier, or tradesman will rather submit to robbery, fraud, and the grossest attacks on the chastity of his wife or family, rather than run the risk of the exactions and injustice that certainly await him if he brings his case before the local Courts.

The only check upon such flagrant wrong-doing is furnished under the new system by "Maoday-i-oomoom," or Public Prosecutor, by no means a model official, and who besides suffered so much from ill-health that his efforts at checking abuses were, for a long time, futile. He has been joined lately by the "Adalet Muffetish," or Judicial Inspector, Hohannes Korassanjian Effendi, who, after making a tour of the whole vilayet, has for some months past been hard at work in Angora, where there is certainly great scope for all the energy which he undoubtedly possesses. This man is both feared and hated by corrupt Turkish officials, because he is not only a Christian, but an Armenian; he is proof against all their blandishments, as he possesses private means, and seems indifferent to bribes, and even to salary, and is one of that small class who like their work for their work's sake. If such officials were more numerous there would be hope of reform, even in Asia Minor. Unable to effect any amelioration by the ordinary means at his disposal, he has strained his powers to the utmost, and, with the Vali's concurrence, has instituted a Court of Inquiry to which all three suspected Presidents only, with their Councils, have been summoned for examination.

That inquiry is now proceeding, and I shall, of course, inform your Excellency fully of the result. My object to-day is to point out to your Excellency that, under the present system, even although, as seems likely, the wrong-doing of these Presidents should be clearly proved against them, there is no possibility of punishing them as they deserve; all that the Court and Inspector can do is to make their report, and advise the "Adliyé Nazirat," or High Court of Appeal at Constantinople. This Court either does not sit at all, or is occupied with political rather than judicial affairs, for it does not reply to any communications addressed to it, and even the most urgent and repeated telegrams fail to elicit a response.

It would seem an easy and practicable alternative for this Court either to perform its functions, and support the Inspectors it has sent all over the Empire to carry out its decrees, or, if it is too much occupied with more important affairs, to give further responsibility to these Inspectors, and authorize them to suspend an incriminated official for a shorter or longer period, so that some sort of example should be made of the guilty.

I venture most respectfully to suggest to your Excellency that representations to that effect might be made in the proper quarter. I am quite positive that the result would be a great amelioration in the present impure administration of justice, not only in the Province of Angora, but in other provinces of Asia Minor as well.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 174.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 936. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 23, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a Memorandum which I have received from Major Trotter, giving a list of Armenian officials who have been recently removed from their posts.

I have thought it advisable to bring this matter to the notice of the Sublime Porte in a *note verbale*, a copy of which I inclose herewith.

With regard to Alexin Effendi, the Assistant Public Prosecutor at Erzeroum, whose name is mentioned in Major Trotter's list, I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my despatch No. 872 of the 7th instant that Djevdet Pasha had stated that that functionary had been removed on account of his having taken part in an Armenian political meeting, but that his Excellency had promised that he should be re-employed.

I may add that Djevdet Pasha said, in speaking of Alexin Effendi, that he was the son of a highly respectable Greek here, personally known to himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 174.

List of Armenian Officials who have been recently removed from their Posts by arbitrary order of the Porte.

Mudai-Umum Mouavin[a] of Moush, Agop Effendi, native of Khenons, now at Moush.

Mudai-Umum Mouavin of Erzeroum, Alexin Effendi, now at Constantinople.

Mudai-Umum Mouavin of Kharput, Gabigniau, native of Egin, now at Constantinople.

President of Criminal Court of Van, Apiz Effendi, now at Trebizond.

In addition to the above, Aghaton Effendi, Mouavin of Vali of Van, was summoned some months ago to Constantinople nominally for purpose of consulting him on state of affairs, but it is considered practically by him and others that he also is dismissed.

(Signed) H. TROTTER, *Major.*

September 30, 1881.

Inclosure 2 in No. 174.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, October 10, 1881.

FROM information which has been received by Her Majesty's Embassy, it would appear that an extraordinary number of Armenian officials have recently been dismissed from their posts by order of the Imperial Government.

In bringing this fact to the notice of the Sublime Porte, Her Majesty's Embassy feels bound to point out that such proceedings cannot fail to make an impression on the European Powers, whose attention is being now specially directed to the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and to the manner of its fulfilment.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 175.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 946.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 25, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship two Reports which have been drawn up by Mr. Assistant Cameron in pursuance of instructions from Sir Charles Wilson.

The first Report describes a visit paid by Mr. Cameron to some villages of the Kizilbash Kurds of Sivas, and gives an interesting account of their race, religion, mode of life, and political conditions. The second relates to the mode in which the six indirect contributions are collected at Sivas.

I would observe that, considering the short time that Mr. Cameron has been in Anatolia, these Reports do him great credit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 175.

Mr. Cameron to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Sivas, August* 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding to you a Report on a visit which, according to your instructions, I paid to some villages of the Kizilbash Kurds.

On the 5th August I went to Zava, twelve hours to the north-east, and, after inquiries, proceeded three hours south to Chukiri, a large saline, whither the Kurds of the district flock yearly at this season to buy salt. The manager of the place gave me some information which led me on my second trip (August 15-21), eastward four

[a] i.e., Aide Procureur-Général.

hours beyond Chakiri, to Bazarjik, a picturesque village; here I encamped in a field below a high waterfall, whence there was a commanding view of the gorge. Aziz Aga, Chief of the village, was absent, but his younger brother, the Mudir, called him back on purpose to entertain me, as he himself had to visit his nahié. The next day Aziz returned, and treated me very well; knowing, however, that he had been bound for Erzingan, where Alishan Bey and other Kurdish Chiefs were gathering for a great wedding, I did not trespass further on his kindness, but left on the third day. It was with genuine reluctance that he accepted money from me, but the village was a poor one, and I insisted on giving payment.

From Bazarjik I returned to Chakiri, by the narrow winding valley, and thence, soon afterwards, I went two hours south, through a more open fertile country, to Yalinjak, where I stayed five days, and had a good opportunity of seeing the Kurds at their best.

Yalinjak is the centre of another nahié, the Mudir of which is Mustafa Bey, a Chief second only to Alishan Bey in tribal influence. In the hour's conversation which I had with him Mustafa complained to me of official tyranny in general, and of his own imprisonment for two months in Sivas by Abédine Pasha, without cause shown. I expressed no great sympathy, for some Kurds of his village had told me that Mustapha himself was a petty tyrant over his own people.

The other great man of Yalinjak, Sayyid Ismail, was absent, but I was directed to an enormous goat's hair tent on the upland, where his family was dwelling. As I dismounted his wife and eldest son met me, and in a few moments I found myself in a group of four or five married women, who welcomed me to their village. My tent was pitched close at hand, and for the next few days my time was spent in the harvest fields and threshing floors, and at night I used to sit by the fire, talking with the people. By these means, thanks especially to my enlightened hostess, who showed me true Eastern hospitality, I gained some correct insight of the mode of life and nature of the Kurds of the Chakiri district.

On the 23rd instant I set out for Sivas, having, in the course of a double trip, visited nearly twenty Kurdish villages, at five of which I halted for the night.

1. *Race.*—The Kurds in race are quite distinct from the Turks, and may be descended from the Carduchi mentioned by Xenophon. They seem to have no traditions, but say that within the last sixty years large numbers have moved westward from the Persian frontier into Anatolia. They speak of themselves not as a "millet," or nation, but as an "ashiret," or tribe; yet their language has many dialects, so probably there are as many tribes. Their villages are small, usually of twenty-five or thirty houses, with about one hundred souls; nevertheless, they assert that as a nation they outnumber the Turks, whom they heartily detest. A village is to be found at almost every bend of the narrow valleys of the district, and necessity has taught them to cultivate every small patch of level ground among the irregularities of the, for the most part, steep and barren rocks.

The national cast of countenance is shapely, and the features prominent; many of the people have fair hair and grey eyes.

2. *Language.*—Their language consists of common Kurd, Persian, Arabic, and Zaza, the last being a dialect spoken about Diorikí. Its structure is Indo-European, and the verb is quite Persian; indeed, the vocabulary is so largely derived from the latter tongue as to make Kurdish almost a mere Persian dialect. The influence of Arabic, however, is too great to be lost sight of, and the subject is worthy of careful study with more comprehensive materials.

3. *Character.*—The Kurds are decidedly more intelligent than the common Turks and Armenians, as well as more polite and friendly. They are almost too complacent towards strangers, and by some their eagerness for anything new is attributed not to a real thirst for knowledge, but to mere fickleness.

4. *Religion.*—The Kurds are Shiis, or "dissenters," from the Sunnees, or Orthodox Turks. They call themselves Alovis, or followers of Ali, son-in-law of Muhammed, and, like the Persians and others of the sect, are without fanaticism towards strangers and more liberal in faith. They ought to observe a twelve days' fast in Moharram instead of the thirty days of Ramazan; yet they are afraid to break the latter fast in the presence of the meanest Turk. I was asked everywhere if I had the Gospel with me, and at one village they brought me a copy in Turkish, and begged of me to read it to them. I did so, and they put me questions about it. They study the Koran, and accept of it as much as they choose; their great book, however, is the "Sentences of Ali," which is rather scarce, for I could not obtain it; a good translation is to be found in Ockley.

I do not for a moment believe the accusations of the Turks against them, of indulging in improper practice at secret festivals.

They seem to be utterly indifferent about religion; mosques and imams are very rare, and I neither heard the customary calls to prayer, nor did I see any man engaged in his devotions.

5. *Mode of Life.*—The Kurds are agriculturists, with small flocks of sheep and goats, and a few head of cattle; in some districts the men are also muleteers. They spend the greater part of the summer on the uplands, and when the tithes have been paid they bring down from the mountains large quantities of wood, and shut themselves up in their mud hovels till the spring.

During the winter the women knit or spin clothes, or else weave goats' hair and woollen carpets for sale. The men are mostly idle, and make a boast of being so.

I was much struck by the respect shown to the female sex, and asked my hostess about it. She said that the Kurdish women were always well treated and independent, and that they only veiled their faces before Turks, and not in the presence of Kurds or Christians. She attributed the timidity of the Bazarjik women to ignorance. At Yalinjak I found them very forward and quite self-possessed. They are hard-working, and take their full share of the season's labours.

6. *Political Condition.*—The Kurds appeared to me to be more prosperous than the ordinary Turk or Armenian villagers, this being due, perhaps, to their clannishness and mutual help. They grumble a good deal, but their religious persecution has died off, and now they are in reality fairly contented. Their crops, too, are good this year, and they are not troubled with refugees to any great extent. At Bazarjik many lamented that there was "little land, and much tyranny." I sympathized with them on the paucity of arable land to be found in their narrow valleys, and asked about the tyranny. At Yalinjak, where the valleys are broad, with gently sloping hills, the villagers are better off, and Ismail's wife confessed that they were happy enough. There is no doubt that they suffer some petty tyranny from the officials about the tithes, the army, or law-suits referred to the Caza Court; all this, however, they endure in common with Turks and Armenians, and none of my numerous complainants would substantiate any particular case where the Kurds had suffered special injustice for being Kurds, and not merely poor and helpless villagers.

They are, moreover, generally wise enough to submit their cases to the decision of their own Mudirs. Several of these latter officials have told me that the nahiés among their people are in working order, but that there is little to be done by them. The more enlightened Kurds are eager for a better Government, and now that they hear that something is going to be done for the Armenians they too want a "Beylik," or State of their own. I pointed out to them that of their own free-will they had emigrated into the heart of Anatolia, and that they could not expect the Turks to yield up the country to them. On the other hand, I held out a vague hope that things would improve.

They were also very anxious to become British subjects *en masse*, and were disappointed when they learned that some years' continuous residence on British soil was indispensable.

My visit has impressed me favourably with the Kurds.

I am told that the other villagers (Zaza) to the south of the Kara-Bel Mountains are wilder and untractable. With your leave I will pay them a visit, and if my opinions of their race be modified, I hope to report to you again on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DONALD A. CAMERON, *Assistant.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 175.

Mr. Cameron to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

(No. 2.)

Sir, *Sivas, August 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour of forwarding to you a few notes upon the mode of collecting, in this vilayet, some of the "Rusoumi-sitté," or six indirect contributions, levied on salt, tobacco, stamps, spirits, silk, and fish. For full statistics I would refer you to the half-yearly Reports of the Secretary of the Syndicate of Galata Bankers, to whom, on the 1st January, 1880, the entire administration of these revenues was surrendered for the term of ten years.

1. *Salt.*—In other parts of Anatolia salt is sometimes dug out of mines, but here it is obtained either from saline wells or from springs at the surface of the earth.

Of the fourteen large and small salines in this vilayet I have visited the first seven named, and inquired into their working:—Chakiri, Jedeed, Bing Göl, Tuzhisar, Yenijé, Ish-khané, Fadloom, Khargoom, Hamo, Bederli, Marbash, Kureha, Jereed and Jelali.

Chakiri, 12 hours from Sivas to the north-east, is one of the largest and richest. A saline spring bubbles up on the hill-side, and the salt water, after entering a large reservoir, is conducted thence by many open wooden gutters into a series of fifty or more small and shallow tanks. Here, in fine, dry weather, the salt is rapidly precipitated, and forms a thick crust, which is raked out every week, heaped up to dry in the open air, and then taken to the store-house. This system of tanks and gutters was in use at all the salines I visited.

At Fadloom, 3 hours from Sivas to the east, there is a saline well, and the extraction is let out on contract at the rate of 70 paras per 100 okes of dry salt put into the store-house. It is computed that 3 okes of good salt water-supply on evaporation 1 oke of the mineral, and that a gang of men can extract about 7,000 okes of the latter per day, *i.e.*, the daily output is worth 1*l.* sterling to the contractor. The Syndicate, however, sells the salt, wholesale or retail, at 20 paras per oke, or 50 piastres per 100 okes.

Shefik Bey, the manager, told me that this year's estimated produce for the whole vilayet was 6,000,000 okes, worth 3,000,000 piastres, or 30,000 Turkish liras, and that the working expenses do not exceed 5 per cent.

The smallest quantity sold retail is 25 okes, and the supply of salt is never equal to the demand. The season lasts from the 30th June to the 30th October, for continuous dry hot weather is necessary for the evaporation of the water and precipitation of the mineral in the tanks. For the remainder of the year, therefore, the saline offices are shut up, a watchman is left in charge, and the water from the springs flows into the nearest stream and is wasted. During the season the villagers go in crowds to the salines, and make their purchases for the ensuing year. Wet weather at this period is disastrous to the sellers, and the cause of great inconvenience to the buyers.

Under the old management, the loss to the State by peculation was enormous, and even yet the evil is not extinct. The quantity of salt laid up in the store-houses in fine weather is so great, and is so quickly sold and again replenished, that it is easy for a local manager, for example, to enter in the accounts and in the receipt given to the purchaser only 1,000 okes, while 2,000 okes have really been delivered, and money for 1,500 okes received.

The preventive measures now in use are (1) more carefully-chosen officials, drawing good pay; (2) a large staff of "koljis," or policemen, mostly mounted, who have full powers to stop on the high road any man suspected of carrying salt on his cart or animal, and to search his baggage. If salt is found, the "kolji" can demand the receipt, and, by means of his strong-spring scales, can test its accuracy. Any excess of salt renders the holder liable to a fine as a smuggler, such fine amounting to twice the value of the excess. The villagers invariably admit that they have stolen the excess, and pay the fine, without incriminating the manager of the saline, who is really the more guilty party. The chances of escape are largely in their favour, while, by betraying the manager, they only ruin their future market.

Sholik Bey, or else Mr. F. Weakley, the Inspector, from time to time goes the round of the salines, and sees that they are all in working order. On one occasion, when the manager had his suspicions, he set out suddenly for a saline, and stationed a number of his men on the different roads about an hour's distance, with orders to examine the receipts of all buyers of salt who passed them laden from the saline. I do not know what the result was, but it is one proof, among many, of the increase of supervision.

The system of "koljis," armed to the teeth, patrolling the country may be very profitable for the Syndicate, but it is, perhaps, somewhat tyrannical towards the people. The men are supposed to be of good character, being sometimes Circassians, but generally taken from former zaptiehs; it should not, however, be forgotten that the entire practical executive is in their hands, and that they can annoy or molest any traveller at their own discretion.

Another source of loss are the night robberies. Large salines like Chakiri extend over several acres, and, on a dark night, it would not be difficult for thieves to load their animals with sacks filled from the salt heaped up to dry. Now, however, the night-watch is better kept, and the frequent and often fatal fights of former times are very rare.

In the town of Sivas there are more than a hundred salt-dealers, who make large purchases in the summer at 20 paras the oke, and allowing an average 5 paras more for carriage, get a very fair profit by selling it here at 30 paras the oke in winter.

This summer the manager heard that it was the intention of the dealers to make a great combined effort to buy up as much as possible, and to resell it at a high price. To check this scheme, he has stopped the sale of salt at certain salines quite near to Sivas, and is forcing the dealers to lessen their profit by having to go to distant salines. In winter, moreover, he intends to underbid them himself, with the reserve of salt, and thus keep them from managing the market to the public loss.

The "koljis" are constantly bringing into Sivas the receipts from the various salines; unfortunately, the paucity of trade between this town and Constantinople prevents the purchase of bills on the capital, and causes a steady drain of specie from this province, owing to the heavy remittances weekly forwarded by the Syndicate's officials.

2. *Tobacco.*—Most of the tobacco is grown on the Tash Ova, and other large plains in the north of this vilayet. As soon as the crops have been gathered in, a band of officials goes from village to village, to weigh the leaf and to levy the duty of 5 piastres per oke. The difficulties now begin, for the duty is so heavy that even by giving bribes almost equal to the amount of tax on the full crop, the villagers can be content with a small profit. Their usual method is to hide the greater part of their store, and at first merely show a small fraction mixed with chopped straw, manure, and other rubbish; nor is the remainder yielded till bribery has failed and violence has been resorted to. Even then, after the payment of the tax on the full amount, the villager who happens to have been visited first can recoup himself by bargaining with his fellows whose stores have not yet been examined, to receive secretly some of their tobacco into his own house, which has already been searched and vacated. Thus nothing but a large rural staff of reliable officials can cope successfully with the attempts of the peasantry to elude the exorbitant duty.

The manager despairs of stopping the smuggling at this stage. Mr. F. Weakley proposes that the Tokat district, in which most of the tobacco is grown, should be put under the Sivas management. I am convinced, however, that the simplest way is to reduce the duty to reasonable limits. As it is, the local authorities complain of conflicting and senseless orders coming from the capital; all they can do is to send out their "koljis" in every direction, but though quantities of the uncut leaf are daily confiscated, and smugglers detected, such discoveries form but a small fraction of the entire amount lost to the Syndicate's revenues.

During my stay in different villages I have often seen men cut up smuggled leaf-tobacco, and they utterly scout the notion of paying duty on what, to them, is a necessity of life. The fine is equal to the tax on 50 okes, 2½ liras, the tobacco forfeited being taken as a set-off.

There is some talk of the Syndicate wishing to work their monopoly on the French method, and buy up the crops as they stand.

Unless they choose to export the leaf, the growers are obliged to sell it to the fabriques, where it is cut up and put into packets, fastened with a banderolle, specifying the weight, quality, and the duty paid for fabrication. The privilege of starting a new fabrique is very dearly bought, while anyone found with a cutting-machine or with leaf-tobacco is severely fined. On the other hand, the price of the banderolle is 15 piastres per oke for ordinary tobacco.

To anyone, therefore, aware of the nature of the country, it is needless to dilate on the temptations and opportunities offered to smugglers to buy the leaf in the villages, and sell it retail or cut it for themselves.

The tax varies according to the quality, and in the Salonica vilayet, whence many kinds are exported, great loss to the revenue is incurred by growers purposely underrating the quality of the leaf and paying less duty thereon. Thus first-class tobacco, after having paid only second-class duty, and taken a second-class banderolle, is privately sold in enormous quantities as first-class tobacco to connoisseurs in the capital.

An official is always resident at each fabrique, to see that no cut tobacco leaves the premises without having had the proper banderolle fastened on each packet, and stamped by him.

This stamp is called "battal" in Turkish, *i.e.*, "rendered void," because no stamped wrapper can be used a second time.

The daily consumption of tobacco in the town of Sivas alone is computed at 400 okes.

3. *Silk.* 4. *Fish.*—There are neither silk factories nor fisheries in this district. The silk trade at Amasia has recently suffered, and is discontinued for the present.

5. *Stamps.*—All bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes, &c., have to be written on stamped paper, or are invalid. Petitions, which are very popular in this country, have also to be sent in on another special stamped paper, while all printed documents, newspapers, small advertisements, and fly-sheets have to carry the adhesive blue stamp of two paras. The revenue is considerable, as heavy fines are rigorously enforced for neglect of this law.

6. *Spirits.*—The only kind of spirits distilled in this vilayet is an inferior raki, prepared from dried grapes, and quite different in flavour from the mastic sold in the capital. The native wine is always largely resined. Every householder is allowed to make 40 okes of wine and spirits, duty free, for his private annual consumption; any surplus is taxed at the rate of 2 paras per oke. The revenue derived is consequently very slight, and wine-shops do not abound.

In this Report I have purposely avoided Tables of statistics, as I am unable to send any that would be at all complete and satisfactory. The only two of the six Indirect Contributions that are of special importance here are salt and tobacco, and to these I have devoted most space. The management has full powers given it by the Imperial Firman, and its officers are feared throughout the country.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DONALD A. CAMERON, *Assistant.*

No. 176.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 947. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 25, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a Report which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adalia on the Nusseri, Kadmussi, and other tribes.

In a postscript added to the despatch inclosing the above Report, Major Stewart suggests that, should its publication be decided upon, it would be advisable to suppress the names of Sheikh Ibrahim Jelliyezade and his brother. He states that he has just heard from Aleppo that the Vali has imprisoned the Sheikh on a charge of conspiring with him (Major Stewart) for the overthrow of the Ottoman Power, and that a letter has been found on the Sheikh in which the latter promises, in the event of a landing by British troops, to assist them with his tribe.

Major Stewart observes that this letter is probably a concoction of the Vali, who hopes by this apparent display of zeal to further his own interests at Stamboul.

Jemil Pasha is well known to be one of the greatest intriguers in the Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Report by Major Stewart on the Nusseri Tribes, Tobacco Culture, &c.

THE Nusseri are usually, but wrongly, styled Ensariye. They inhabit the districts stretching north and south from Antioch to Tripoli, and east and west from the Orontes to the Mediterranean. They are also to be found in and about Tersus, Adana, Beylon, Scanderoon, Damascus, &c.

Divisions.—They are divided into two main groups, somewhat differing in religion, namely, the Sh'mêliyé and the K'lesiyé. The Sh'mêliyé are also frequently termed Hyderi or Alavi.

The Sh'mêliyé are usually found in the districts stretching north from Latakia to Antioch. The communities found in the towns of Tersus, Adana, Damascus, &c., also belong to this group. Of the two divisions they are by far the most numerous, influential, and flourishing, and exhibit far stronger religious tenacity. The K'lesiyé are found more

to the south between Latakia and Tripoli. The name of Hyderi or Alawi is modern, and is attributed to some of the Sh'mêliyé having discovered that the Shiah sect of Mahommedans are followers of Ali.

Tribes or Clans.—Besides the above two principal divisions, the people are subdivided into several clans, of which the following are a few of the most important:—

1. South of Latakia on the coast between Banias (K) or Merkeb (K) and Djebli (K) is the Saramta or Bet Yashut tribe. They belong to the Hyderi section.
2. North-east of Djebli are the Beni Ali (K), belonging to the K'lesiyé division.
3. Further north the Kenabli, also K'lesiyé.
4. North of them the Kelbi or Kerdaha (K)—K'lesiyé.
5. North-east of the Kelbi is the Amamra tribe, who inhabit the range of hills running parallel with the Wast. This is a mixed tribe, some being Sh'mêliyé and some K'lesiyé.
6. Further north the Muhailbi and Dariusi (K) tribes. These are Hyderi, but dislike the name, preferring to be called Sh'mêliyé. They are to be found in the districts between Silicin (K) and Darius (K).
7. North-east of these are the Jeliniyé, belonging to the K'lesiyé group. North of this last tribe are the Sahyoni, now Mahommedan. The district is finally closed in by the Jebel Akkra, or Mount Cassius of the Ancients. This high peak (5,300 feet) separates the district from the Antioch Caza, the Nusseri in which, and further north, all belong to the Hyderi or Sh'mêliyé group.

N.B.—The names marked with (K) are to be found in Kiepert's map.

Similar to the Bedouins, most of these tribes are constantly at feud with each other, the causes for which are old blood feuds, quarrels about boundaries, &c. As an illustration, there is the blood feud that has been going on for many years between the Kelbi and the Muhailbi, and which is due to the son and grandson of the head Sheikh among the K'lesiyé, Ibrahim Sayyid having been slaughtered by the Turks under Akif Pasha, on information furnished by Hassan Nassir or Muhailbi. Hassan Nassir was subsequently murdered by the Kelbi: hence the blood feud.

Numbers.—I have found it almost impossible to get anything like a trustworthy estimate on this head, the Sheikhs always giving extremely wide answers. According to Government Returns, there are 6,020 male Nusseri in the Antioch Caza; on the other hand, the head Sheikh of that district estimates their number, including both sexes, at 25,000. His estimate of the total number of both sexes and groups was 265,000. Probably the real number may be something between 150,000 and 200,000. Of the two groups the northern or Sh'mêliyé is by far the most numerous and united, the head spiritual Sheikh of that section, Ibrahim Effendi Jellaliyé, who resides at the village of Jilli, near the mouth of the Orontes, being a man of capacity and will. He told me that his father often used to express his satisfaction at the increasing numbers of his tribe, the increase being due not so much to natural causes as to the gradual emigration north of the southern tribes.

Religion.—Owing to the extreme secrecy which surrounds the doctrines of these tribes, it is almost impossible to get any really accurate information. Those who have lived amongst them for many years appear to know as little about it as newly-arrived strangers. Like all religions veiled in mystery, there are many scandalous stories about what takes place at the prayer meetings. Probably most of these, if not all, are pure fabrications, due either to a lively imagination or slander. At any rate, the Nusseri indignantly deny them. I have heard, on very good authority, that the people hold to the doctrine that they were originally all fixed stars, and only became human beings as a punishment for refusing to recognize the Deity, who appeared to them on three several occasions, first in the shape of an old man, then as a young man, and finally as a lion. Although with them the woman is not shut up as with the Mahommedans, she is still looked upon as an unclean being, and is commonly said to be made up of all the sins of the devil. Should a woman happen to see them at their prayer meetings the prayers become invalid. They are said to believe in the transmigration of souls, and to worship all manifestations of power, such as storms and earthquakes. They have a great veneration for Ali, the Fourth Khalifeh, and look up to him even more than do the Shiahs. They hold the immediate successors of the Prophet, Abu Beke, Omar, and Osman, to be infidels and enemies. Such, indeed, is the estimation in which they hold Ali, that the main difference between the Sh'mêliyé and K'lesiyé turns upon the present abode of Ali, the former asserting that he is to be found in the sun, and the latter in the moon. If I may be allowed to express an opinion on such a very obscure topic as the Nusseri creed, I might feel inclined to say it is a mixture of many of the tenets and doctrines that have at one time or another disturbed the world. Some of these doctrines, such as the worship of Ali, &c., have been

adopted for political or other purposes; others, such as the transmigration of souls, worship of the sun and moon, form probably part of the original creed.

In each sect are some priests called Mesheikh (plural of Sheikh). The head priests are—

1. For the Shi'nêliyé, Ibrahim Effendi Jelliyezade, assisted by his brothers, Abdulla and Yusuff Effendi.

2. For the K'lesiyé, Ibrahim Seyyid, who is quite an old man, living at the village of Bahluliyé, near Latakia.

Of these two men, Ibrahim Effendi is by far the most powerful and influential. He receives a considerable revenue, derived partly from tithes and partly from land. In return for the tithes he is expected to support the needy and infirm, and to entertain hospitably. He is greatly looked up to and feared by his people, generally settles their disputes, and looks after their interests. I am assured such is his influence, that should he condemn a Nusseri to death he would be obeyed.

Race: Origin.—Here again I have been unable to make out anything. The Sheikhs and people either do not know or else will not tell. One probable theory is, that they are the representatives of the Canaanites; this is supported by the similarity of some names, their worship of the sun (Baal), &c. Another theory is, that they are originally from Persia, though how and when the emigration occurred is not explained. Whether one of these or some other theory is the correct one, there can be but little doubt that the people show a decided partiality for Persia, due perhaps to the high estimation both parties have for Ali. They appeared quite surprised when told that the Persian Government was nothing to boast of. Some of the Sheikhs were fine specimens of humanity.

Habits and Customs: Native Aristocracy.—As already intimated, the woman is as much a slave among the Nusseri as among other eastern races. Divorce is as easily obtained as polygamy is the rule whenever the man can afford it. In respect to hospitality the Nusseri form no exception to their neighbours. They appear particularly fond of dining and cooking in common. In many of the villages there is a general kitchen, *i.e.*, rows of copper vessels fixed securely in the ground with fireplaces. In the towns the people follow the trades of blacksmiths, carpenters, &c.; in the villages they are of course cultivators. Prayer meetings are of frequent occurrence, and generally occur at night. There are no mosques or churches, the meeting being called together in a private house, and the place of meeting frequently changed. It is said to be dangerous for anyone to see them at their devotions. Initiation into their faith does not begin till the youth has attained the age of manhood; the process is gradual, and it is probable that the higher doctrines are only taught to the chosen few. Great reverence is paid to some of their departed Sheikhs, and handsome tombs or "zeauts" are built over their graves, which are visited at certain seasons by crowds of pilgrims. The zeauts frequently also serve as halls of justice when the Sheikh has some weighty case to settle. The dignity of priest remains in the same family, and descends from father to son. Besides the priests there is in each tribe a hereditary Chief, called a Mukaddem. In cases where the eldest son is unfit to succeed his father his family may decide to pass him over. These Mukaddems and their families form an aristocracy which is greatly looked up to by the people. I am, however, told that of late years the spiritual Chiefs have usurped a great deal of the power and influence properly appertaining to the temporal Chiefs.

Feelings of the People towards the Government: Grievance.—In passing through Jilly I had a long conversation with Sheikh Ibrahim Effendi Jelliyezade and his brothers.* The Sheikh expressed himself in very bitter terms against the Government. He stated that in the time of Ali Pasha he himself had gone to Stamboul and got a Firman securing to his people equal rights with the Mahommedans, but that Suriya Pasha, the then Vali of Aleppo, had disregarded the Firman. This Firman gave them the right to appear as witnesses, to enter the mosques, and to have representatives on the Medjlisses. He also said that when compared with the Mahommedans a far larger proportion of the Nusseri were taken to serve as soldiers. Also that zaptiehs, &c., sent to collect the taxes, lived on them for days, ill-treated their women, killed their sheep, and generally behaved outrageously. That if they could not get these and other grievances redressed, they would prefer to be treated as a distinct nationality. He further said that quite recently Sheikh Abdullah Effendi had been sent to Stamboul to represent their grievances.

The Sheikh expressed great delight at the Russian successes, saying had the Turks been victorious neither Christian nor Nusseri could have lived in the country.

Similar to most of his people, he appeared to have a great opinion of the Persians, saying that, on several occasions, the Persian Consul had done his best to assist him. He

* If published, please suppress this conversation.

finally wound up by saying that he and his people were by far the most miserably oppressed subjects of the Porte, having neither Consul nor Patriarch to attend to their interests.

At Latakia I made further inquiries, and was told that, when compared with former times, matters were now mending, and the Nusseri not so badly treated. Perhaps this may be in a great measure due to the departure of the military to the Hauran, and the consequent weakness of the Local Government. A member of the local Medjliss is a Nusseri, and they have also a member on the Bidayet Court.

There is, however, but little doubt that in the drawing for soldiers they are unfairly treated. They may also suffer more than their neighbours in the levying of taxes, being looked upon with great dislike and contempt by the Mahommedans. I was assured that, only some few years ago, it was no uncommon occurrence for troops to be sent out to get in the taxes. A scene of indescribable confusion, fighting, and riot was the result, ending, but in too many cases, by the destruction of the villages and the slaughter of the inhabitants. On the other hand, it is but fair to add that frequently the people brought it on themselves by their rebellious conduct.

Policy of the Government: Suggestions.—As in the case of the Bedouins, the Government motto has been, "Divide to Govern." No great ability has been required to carry out this policy, the tribes being always only too ready to fly at each other's throats. Another object of policy was to diminish the power and influence of the native aristocracy, and by imprisonment, exile, &c., to prevent the possibility of the people ever having a leader. This policy has, on the whole, been pretty steadily carried out, and has been fairly successful. Isolated tribes have occasionally risen, but so far as I know there has been no general rising. In the present unprotected state of the Local Government there can be but little doubt that, in the event of a Nusseri revolt, they would at first have it all their own way. During my stay at Latakia, his Excellency Hamdi Pasha, the Vali of Syria, arrived, and from what I could hear appeared inclined to the policy of re-establishing the former small military posts throughout the country. I am decidedly opposed to that policy, as I consider that the return of the military will only cause the same old grievances to reappear. The military will begin to harass the country; after a time the inhabitants will resist, and bloodshed and rebellion will be the result. In my opinion, a far more judicious and statesmanlike course would be to make the Mukaddems responsible for their districts, and the collection of taxes, tithes, &c. They might be given a certain salary, and made friendly to the Government by the distribution of a few honours. With the jealous disposition of the Eastern, there is but little chance of their uniting.

Emigration.—I hear on good authority that the people residing about Latakia are showing a decided tendency to move north towards Adana. The causes for this movement are—(1), the falling off of the tobacco culture, caused by vexatious restrictions; (2), the great demand for labour at certain seasons in the Adana plain, in order to get in the cotton crop; (3), the bullying the people about Latakia are subjected to; (4), the greater popularity of the northern Sheikh.

The Kadmusi or Ishmaelites.—This tribe, although frequently numbered among the Nusseri, is really quite independent of them. The tribe inhabits the range of hills between Tripoli and the Orontes, and is said to be in a very degraded state.

They have peculiar habits and customs, the chief among which being the adoration of the female. The following account of them is from an Arab Encyclopædia:—

"The Ishmaelites were called by the Crusaders assassins, and first made their appearance A.D. 840. The founder of the sect is Ibn Sébâh. Their creed is, that nothing is true in the world, and that every desire is permissible. Similar to other religions, they hold that their Sheikh only is gifted with the Holy Spirit, and that only his religious teaching is true. They believe in the 'Koran,' but assert it has mysterious meanings, and that in these they can find the principles of their creed, *i.e.*, the worship of the woman. They are somewhat Jesuitical, and teach that whatever a man has a natural inclination for must be right. From 840 to 1124 they carried on their trade as assassins. It is reported that the only occasion on which an assassin was known to show mercy occurred in the year 1124, when one of them was sent to kill their enemy, Sultan Senjar Ibn Melek Shah. Instead of accomplishing his mission, the man struck his dagger into the ground next the sleeping Sultan, along with a note stating he could have killed him had he so wished."

The present Ishmaelite Sheikh is Emir Assad.

Advisability of clearing out the old Port of Antioch: Bar at Mouth of Orontes.—The ruins of the old port, a little north of the Orontes, are still standing; but the basin is now completely filled up, and part of it under cultivation. It has been suggested that the harbour might again be cleared: but I am inclined to think the expense would be very

great, and that the basin would be hardly large enough for the present style of shipping. The entrance also is awkward. This is the more to be regretted, as a road from Antioch to Aleppo would meet with but few, if any, difficulties, the country being fairly level. Of the alternative plan of improving the mouth of the Orontes I am unable to give an opinion, but I am told there is a very bad bar.

Port and Population of Latakia: Road to Aleppo by Jesz-Shoghul.—There is a small port or rather inlet at Latakia, and for years past there has been a project to clear it out, deepen it, and make it available. Each Vali on visiting the place expresses his approbation of the plan, and promises to assist in getting it carried out. Needless to say nothing is ever done, nor, as the inlet is small, do I think it so very much matters. The cost of clearing it out is estimated at £ T. 15,000 to £ T. 20,000. I am, however, told that about 2 hours north of the town there is a natural harbour called Minet-el-Beda, which at some cost could be turned into a capital port almost as large as that of Smyrna.

The population of Latakia is estimated at 11,200 souls, including some 2,200 Greek Orthodox and 300 to 400 Armenians and Maronites. There is but little business going on.

The road from Latakia to Jesz-Shoghul, although it passes over a range of hills, would, comparatively with other mountain roads, have no very great difficulties to contend with. The highest point on the road is some 1,800 feet, and there is a tolerably gradual rise from the coast. The same may be said with still greater reason of the Jesz-Shoghul and Aleppo section.

Culture of Tobacco in the Latakia Plain: Remarks on Trade.—This district was formerly celebrated for its tobacco, of which there was a considerable export trade, but lately, owing to the foolish—I may almost say idiotic—restrictions placed on the trade, the cultivation has in a great measure ceased, and with it the prosperity of the town and district. The Tobacco Regulations were introduced some seven to eight years ago, since when the annual revenue from the Customs has fallen from £ T. 60,000 to £ T. 3,000. The following will illustrate the character of these restrictions and the difficulties with which the trade is hampered:—

Before the crop is cut it is visited by an official who estimates the probable amount. After being cut another official verifies the amount and gives the owner a serghi, or certificate, stating the actual quantity. On selling the owner is bound to produce the same quantity as stated in the serghi; for any deficit he pays a fine of 50 piastres per oke. It is evident that what with the drying and handling there must always be a deficit. Should the exporter wish to send his tobacco to Europe it is weighed at the Customs before shipment. On being transhipped at Beyrout it is again weighed, and for any deficit on the previous weighing the exporter pays a further fine of 50 piastres per oke, although he has had nothing to say to the goods since the first weighing.

On arrival at destination the European Custom-house certificate, countersigned by the Turkish Consul, must be forwarded to this country for inspection by the Turkish Custom-house officers. In this case also for any deficit there is a fine of 50 piastres per oke. Export to Europe is free, but to Egypt there is a duty of 10 piastres per oke, with an import duty in Egypt of 15 piastres. For internal trade the duty is 50 piastres, which is levied only when the tobacco is sold.

Notwithstanding these hampering, and, in many cases, absurd Regulations, the revenue derived is, when one takes into consideration the large quantity consumed in the country, ridiculously small. The reason is the enormous extent of illicit selling. Most of the Government factories where tobacco is sold have entirely ceased working, such as, for instance, at Konia, where, out of four Government factories, three have entirely shut up. The same may be said of Adulia, and, indeed, of most towns.

As with tobacco so with most articles of trade. The Government, instead of encouraging the trader and facilitating his work by every means, appears to have laid itself out to follow exactly the reverse policy.

For instance, articles exported by sea from one Turkish port to another pay a duty of 8 per cent. *ad valorem*. Should, however, the trader change his mind and land his goods at some intermediate port, he cannot do so without paying a further duty of 8 per cent.

Again, in the Vilayets of Aleppo and Syria the export of cattle was till lately forbidden, but not so in Adana, so the only result was that cattle had to be forwarded there. The same may be said of the export of horses to India. Being forbidden in Turkey, the horses are sent across the frontier and shipped from Persia, so that the only practical result, as far as the Government is concerned, is that the export duty is lost without the trade being stopped.

Altogether, from the little I have seen and heard of the trade Regulations, I should

feel inclined to say that both Government and merchants have every reason to congratulate themselves on the great venality of the Custom officers.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART, *Major, 11th Hussars,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Adulia, October 10, 1881.

No. 177.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 425. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October* 29, 1881.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in his despatch to your Lordship No. 878, Very Confidential, of the 8th instant, on the subject of a proposed concession of a railway from Constantinople to Bagdad, recommends that inquiries should be made at Berlin in reference to this matter.

I have already had the honour to inform your Lordship in previous reports that this concession, solicited by Dr. Strousberg, has neither the sanction or support of the German Government, and that the leading bankers of Berlin look upon it as an impractical and unprofitable speculation, which will not attract German capital or enterprize.

Count Hatzfeldt and Dr. Busch, whom I questioned on the subject, entirely confirmed the above information in conversation with me yesterday, and added that Dr. Strousberg's scheme had never even been submitted or communicated to the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 178.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 951.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 29, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Bennet, giving a Report of a tour made by him in the Vilayet of Sivas.

I have thought it advisable to call the attention of the Porte, in an unofficial manner, to the condition of this part of the country, as described by Lieutenant Bennet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Vice-Consul Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Sivas, October* 3, 1881.

I HAVE just returned from a long tour I have made in this vilayet, a journey chiefly undertaken to obtain topographical information. My route was as follows:—

From Sivas to Zarra and Kara-Hissar (Mutessariflik), thence to Kerasunde (Trebizond Vilayet). Returning to Kara-Hissar, I went thence in a westerly direction to Niksar Ladyk and Wezir Kupru. Thence to Marsiwan Tehorum and Alaja, and came back to Amasia by the Tchekorik Valley. From Amasia I circled round by the Tash Ova again to Turkhall and Zileh, and returned straight to Sivas.

I wish I had anything of an encouraging nature to report to your Lordship, but, on the contrary, wherever I go I can only find the old complaints—universal corruption of officials, utter impossibility of obtaining justice, no security, and a constant and increasing demand on the poor villagers for money.

The Kara-Hissar Sandjak is a mountainous region, with a male population, as given me, of about 40,000, of whom 10,000 are Armenians, and 7,000 Greeks.

Except a little "kitri" (gum tragacanth) and gypsum, there are no exports to speak of. The mountains north of Kara-Hissar contain mineral, silver-lead having been worked on and off for some years; an English-German Company has now taken this mine, and it is to be hoped may do something for the adjacent villages (Greek) which have been in a poor condition since it stopped work, about two years ago.

There is but little traffic between Kara-Hissar and the sea, the road over the mountains being very difficult.

The Mutessarif, Yusuf Tali Pasha, seemed an honest official, but I doubt his capacity; he has been much in Europe, and speaks French. He complained that his efforts to put a stop to robberies were frustrated by the justice authorities, who allowed prisoners to escape or evade justice, and cited an example of one, Aziz, a notorious highwayman, whom he had captured after much difficulty, but who managed to escape within a week, and he had to go himself to recapture him. He also complained that no attention whatever was paid to his endeavours to get rid of bad officials. Since he has been at his post, about nine or ten months, he has devoted a good deal of attention to a new road to Kerasunde, and flatters himself he has accomplished much; certainly, as far as appearances go, he has a good deal to show for the forty days' labour, which he states is all he has been able to get, on account of the late break-up of the winter and Ramazan, but unfortunately he has only an Armenian engineer, who has not even the advantage of common sense to guide him in road-making, and the result is, in my opinion, a lamentable failure, and so far only an obstruction, and the people have been harassed by a useless waste of forced labour; this is all the more to be regretted, as the Kerasunde portion (Trebizond Vilayet) is remarkably well engineered, so far as I was able to judge in a thick fog and rain, the ascent being almost imperceptible, about 1 in 25. The total distance is about 70 miles, of which 30 are in Trebizond, and 40 in the Sivas Vilayet. The road was commenced from Kerasunde about ten years ago, and 5 miles or so have been completed, and the work, though the road is now somewhat overgrown, is very good. Then for about 10 miles a good deal of heavy cutting has been done, but much remains to finish; they are working along slowly at this portion, ten days forced labour being this year required; the remaining 15 miles of the Kerasunde portion is simply a track in the thick forest, now almost impassable; at the present rate at least twenty years will be required to complete. The Kara-Hissar portion was much easier to plan, consisting chiefly of high undulating grass land, covered with snow for five or six months in the year, the descent to Kara-Hissar being the only serious obstacle; here, for about 1,000 feet we have a gradient of about 1 in 5 or 1 in 6, which will have to be altered before the road is practicable for wheels; but all that has been done in this portion is of the roughest description. The engineer from Trebizond is, I hear, appointed to Sivas, and I have been urging the authorities to send him to Kara-Hissar on arrival. The route now followed is quite distinct from this one, and so difficult that mules can only get over with light loads, and the post arrives by foot messenger.

Almost the only export from Kerasunde, a pleasant town of some 7,500 houses, half Moslem and half Greek, is nuts, and of these, which grow in great profusion on the northern and lower slopes of the mountains, about £ T. 150,000 worth are exported annually. All the Black Sea steamers touch here, but there is only one Consular Representative, the Russian. There are no facilities for landing.

The harbour is an open one; a promontory runs out into the sea some half-mile, and around the neck of this the town is built. There is good anchorage on both sides, the water being 6 to 8 fathoms deep quite close in. The remains of an old breakwater are still visible running out at right angles to the promontory on the west side. The harbour is quite exposed to the north, and it frequently happens that steamers cannot touch.

The estimated cost of rebuilding the breakwater is 30,000*l.*, but there is no chance of its being done.

The Kaïmakam was away at Constantinople; he was well spoken of.

*[On returning to Kara-Hissar I met an exile, Mehmet Chevki Bey, a great friend of the Mutessarif's, who also spoke French, and a little English. Among other things, he assured me the Vali was always writing to the Mutessarif to run down the Armenians, both he and the Mutessarif spoke of Russian agents being about trying to induce the Ictrani to emigrate.]

So far as the Armenians are concerned, I do not think they intend taking any leap

* Confidential.

in the dark; but the Greeks, whose condition is worse, are thinking seriously of going to Russia, and the representative of the Greek Church said he did not think they could be dissuaded much longer.

The Vali himself was also here on his tour of inspection, and we exchanged visits for the first time, he having been on the sick list at Sivas. Every one remarked how much less security there is now compared with what there was in Abédine Pasha's time, and the present man, Hakki Pasha, seems universally detested, except by his own ring.

Leaving Kara-Hissar, I went to Koilu-Hissar, where I heard great complaints of the insecurity of the roads and the depredations committed on cattle and horses by refugees, Circassians and Kurds; at Koilu-Hissar itself, a village of 150 houses, and close to the residence of the Kaïmakam, they declared they had lost over 100 animals this year; but the story was the same everywhere; and what can a Kaïmakam do to preserve order with only four or five zaptiehs? What with carrying letters and collecting taxes, there is never a man available in an emergency. At Kara-Hissar there were twelve mounted zaptiehs, at Koilu-Hissar 4, at Niksar 6, at Urek 3, at Ladyk 5, and at Wezir Kupru 3—all these, with the exception of Kara-Hissar, being Kaïmakamliks, with from 70 to 200 villages in each; indeed, the police system seems to be in a state of collapse, and the villages have to provide their own guardians. Mudirs without pay are held responsible for public order, and I heard of a case at Urek—a peculiarly atrocious murder of an old man and his wife—where three adjoining villages had been told they would have to pay a fine of 72,000 piastres if the murderer was not captured and handed over to the authorities within fifteen days. Another murder near Zileh, and the authorities unable to arrest the murderer, whose whereabouts was known, because they had no zaptiehs.

From Kara-Hissar, as far as Niksar, the route is mountainous, but after leaving Niksar the mountains recede, leaving open fertile plains, and the road is easy. The Tasch Ova, particularly, is very fertile, tobacco, opium, and hemp being grown, besides the usual cereals; and I believe almost anything would do well there, but it is hot and unhealthy in summer.

They say that roads are to be made from Knieh to Koilu-Hissar, and from Ordu to Niksar; but I do not think much has been done so far. Samsoun is the port for the Tasch Ova. It would be worth while seeing if the river could not be made navigable, the plain being very little above the level of the sea.

Between the Tasch Ova and the Ladyk Plain the mountains again close in, but the pass is easy enough; it is reported as being very unsafe, and a guard-house should be built. It was close here that the murder of the old couple, alluded to before, took place a few days before my arrival; the Kaïmakam of Urek, a young Circassian exiled from the Palace, and in his present post quite like a fish out of water, had represented the insecurity of this pass more than once, but nothing is ever done.

Eastwards of Ladyk stretches a large open basin, uncultivated and under water a good portion of the winter and spring; it affords an endless supply almost of hay and grass during the summer, and was formerly a great horse-breeding place. Since the arrival of the Circassians these have disappeared, and buffaloes and oxen are now reared to a great extent. *[The Kaïmakam of Ladyk, Bekyr Bey, was also a Circassian exile, and a more outspoken man I never met; it was more like talking to a brother Vice-Consul than a Turkish official, and he cared not who heard him;] he had a good head on his shoulders, and would make an able official under different circumstances, I should say. With the means at his disposal, and such assistance as he is likely to get from his superiors, a Kaïmakam is now powerless for good; a bad man may do harm, a good one can effect nothing, or next to nothing.

Having a few pounds from the Stafford House Fund to distribute, I was much struck by the enormous number of casualties during the late war; over and over again I came across villages where not one out of three had returned, and about half of those missing had left widows and, as a rule, large families, totally unprovided for, and existing on the charity of their neighbours. The Government had done nothing for these people, and they cannot but be a heavy tax on an already overtaxed population. Refugees, too, add to their burthens, as they have frequently to build them houses, or find them land and accommodation in their villages, or provide transport as they pass from place to place. As a rule, the Circassians are credited with cattle lifting, and I frequently heard it stated that they were stolen in daylight by force; that it was useless appealing to Government, as even if the robber were arrested, he was sure

* Confidential.

to be released in a short time, and retaliation followed—but this is an old story. I do not believe that half the cases that occur ever reach the ears of the Government; the new laws are still not understood, and the people are frightened at the preliminary expenses, at the trouble and risk they run, and there is no confidence. All suffer except, perhaps, the Circassians, who can take care of themselves; Turks, Armenians, and Greeks, the latter especially, are suffering much from hard times. I passed a night at a small Greek village, in the dense beech forest between the Tasch Ova and Turckhall; these people, about fifteen houses, had been crowded out about twenty years ago from the neighbourhood of Samsoun. They had come up here and cleared for themselves a few fields in the forest by much labour; it was one of the dirtiest places, and the worst houses for such a situation I ever came across, simply rough log huts with no attempt to fill the crevices, a cold place too. It had always been a hard struggle for these unfortunates, their land tax enormously over-assessed—instance a man paying at the rate of 100,000 piastres for a plot he would sell for 10,000 piastres—and from their isolated position and religion an easy prey for robbers, but the influx of refugees of late had been the last straw, and they were on the point of selling off everything, paying their debts, and going off to Russia. A Greek priest, one Haralambeh, from Sorkun, a village near, had been to Russia, and returned with a Firman offering a home and transport to Batoum for about 300 houses, so it was said; but the people had not troubled themselves to make any particular inquiries, and knew nothing as to their destination and were without expectations. They were quite clear on one point, however, and that was, that it was impossible to exist any longer in Turkey, and that they must go. There was no alternative. They would have no money to commence a new life, just sufficient for the road perhaps, but no more, and a few had to remain behind unable to pay their debts nor the others to help them; altogether, they expected about 300 houses from the Niksar and Urek Cazas would start in about three weeks' time. I understand no hindrance will be placed in the way by the authorities, and I think there is every chance of the movement spreading. A few houses from near Tokat left about two months ago by land. If it was any other country but Russia, I believe many Moslems would go as well. And so we have the edifying spectacle of Christians driven out of Turkey by misgovernment.

Nowhere in this long journey of 800 miles did I find the Government making the slightest attempt to do anything for the good of the country or the people; the demand for money is increasing, and the villagers have often to sell their standing crops at half value or borrow money on next year's crops at a ruinous rate; the outlook is hopeless in the extreme.

I am pleased to find that the Government, by force of circumstances no doubt, have abandoned the idea of collecting the house and property tax twice over this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 179.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 956.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of an article from the Armenian journal the "Massis," containing observations on the hopes and aspirations of the Armenian community, which may be of interest to your Lordship.

The "Massis" represents generally the views of the moderate party in the Armenian Gregorian community, and, though not dependent on the Patriarchate, is in direct communication with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 31, 1881.

SPIRIT OF THE NATIVE PRESS: THE ARMENIAN QUESTION.—The Armenian journal the "Massis," publishes some observations on this subject, as moderate as they are just:—

"The correspondent of the 'Times,' speaking of the Principalities of the Balkan Peninsula, expresses his belief that, for reasons both internal and external, they will not be able to preserve their political autonomy. The conclusions of the correspondent may not be absolutely correct in every detail, but that Austro-Hungary will one day extend her protection, perhaps even directly her sovereignty, over certain portions of European Turkey, at present either partially or wholly detached from the Ottoman Empire, is an eventuality perhaps inevitable. Now, an association of ideas transports us from Europe to Asia, and leads us to consider how mistaken those are, who believe, or wish to make others believe, that the Armenians, under one form or other, seek to detach themselves from the Ottoman Government, and to constitute themselves into a body, either partly or entirely autonomous, or even quite independent. What is true as regards the Bulgarians, the Servians, and even the Hellenes, is still more true for the Armenians. If those three nations are calmly and dispassionately adjudged incapable of self-government, it would require an optimism and a national fervour of a highly exalted type to suppose that the Armenians possess in a higher degree those qualities which are supposed to be wanting in the Bulgarians, the Servians, and the Greeks. But over and above those qualities and aptitudes of the Armenians, there exists another fact of the gravest importance as regards Armenia—the neighbourhood of Russia—of such a nature, moreover, that even admitting that the Armenians were capable of self-government in the highest degree, the monarchic traditions and the tendency towards conquest of the great Empire of the North would be opposed to the existence of an Armenian kingdom. Russia would not fail before long to annex Armenia, possibly not so much with the idea of adding another jewel to the Imperial Crown, as for the sake of destroying a bad precedent for other non-Russian races subject to its sway, as well as the Russian-Armenian subjects.

"On this account, and for other reasons of the same nature, no less clear, to suppose that the Armenians desire to shake themselves free from the Ottoman Empire, is more than a misconception—it is a positive piece of malevolence. To entertain such an idea, is to suppose the Armenians as void, not only of political virtue, but even of common sense, and we do not admit, neither do we believe, that the intelligence of our co-nationalists is of such an inferior order. What the Armenians have demanded, and still demand, is simply reform, more or less extensive, but real reform, in virtue of which they may be able to live in tranquillity, exempt from the constantly recurring attacks of bandits and other robbers, to enjoy the fruit of their labour, to be assured of their life and property, and not to be deprived of their common rights as citizens, after they have acquitted themselves of all their duties to the Government. What is called the 'Armenian question' consists in these few words. In order to possess such privileges, it is by no means necessary to form a separate Government, neither is it just to attribute to those who seek for them political aspirations; they are things which all people have a right to enjoy, whether they be subject, semi-autonomous, or independent. It is for this reason that we hope that henceforth the demands of the Armenians will be understood in their true sense; and that when it shall have been well comprehended that the interests of our nation and of the Empire are one and the same, we shall not have long to wait for the execution of those elementary reforms which we so earnestly desire. Perhaps, it may not be useless from time to time to offer explanations which may tend to clear up the questions."

No. 180.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 9, 3·15 P.M.)

(No. 414.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 9, 1881, 9·45 A.M.

I HAVE received following message from Sultan in reply to a request I addressed to him for an audience in reference to the appointment of the High Commissioner for Asia Minor:—

"The Sultan's Ministers had been directed to prepare a scheme of reform for Asia Minor, which, on being submitted to His Majesty, had to be returned to the Porte with orders to the Ministers to make it more complete. The rectified scheme for reforms will in a few days be again submitted to His Majesty, and your Excellency may rest assured," added the message, "that the question will receive a satisfactory solution." It concluded by saying that "as it was essential for the Sultan to consider the matter seriously, and to think of the future of the country as well as of the interests of his subjects, it was naturally necessary for him to enter into a minute examination of all the details of the question."

As the Sultan expressly mentions a few days, the only thing to be done for the moment is to wait for the promised communication.

No. 181.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 747.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 9, 1881.*

I HAVE read with interest the report of Mr Hardinge's journey to Broussa, inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 909 of the 14th ultimo, and I have to request you to inform him that I have observed with satisfaction the good use which he has made of his leisure time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 182.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 902.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 2, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Warlow, mentioning the reported formation of a new Vilayet of Ismidt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Brussa, October 29, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to mention a current report that the Porte intend forming a Vilayet of Ismidt, by adding to the sandjak of that name the Sandjak of Boli, now belonging to the Vilayet of Kastamnie. This arrangement would bring under one rule all the country which suffers so much from the depredations of Circassian and Abbassye refugees, and would much facilitate the establishment of order. If it is carried out the new Governor-General should be a picked man, vested with special powers.

2. I take this opportunity of bringing to your notice that the Sandjak of Ismidt would appear entitled to share in the reforms guaranteed by Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin, as its Christian inhabitants (mostly Armenian), according to official statistics, amount to four-tenths, and, in reality, to one-half, of the entire population, exclusive of refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 183.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 971. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 7, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 842 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches, from Colonel Stewart and Sir Charles Wilson respectively, on the subject of the arrest of Sheikh Ibrahim Jelliyezade, and the accusations brought against Colonel Stewart at Aleppo of having conspired with that Chief for the overthrow of the Ottoman power on the occasion of his late expedition amongst the Nusseri tribes.

Colonel Stewart's despatch gives the strongest denial to the rumours set afloat as regards his dealings with the Sheikh Ibrahim Jelliyezade, and your Lordship will perceive from Sir C. Wilson's Report that the Sheikh's arrest was not due to Colonel Stewart's visit, but to his supposed intrigues with French agents. Both officers also protest strongly against the false reports that are continually forwarded to the Palace in regard to the proceedings of Her Majesty's Consuls in Asia Minor.

Your Lordship will remember that in my despatch No. 495 of the 21st June last I had the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a note from the Sublime Porte complaining of Colonel Stewart's expedition amongst the Hauran tribes.

In a conversation I had with the Prime Minister at that time I took occasion to disabuse his mind as to the nature of Colonel Stewart's mission and the manner in which he fulfilled it, and, since then, I have lost no opportunity of exposing the absurdity of the misrepresentations, which I had reason to believe were being made by evil-disposed persons, with reference to the acts of our military Consuls.

The Sultan himself has never alluded to the subject, but on both the occasions when I have seen him I have taken an opportunity of enlarging generally upon the falsity of these reports, and have used such language as I thought best calculated to reassure the mind of His Majesty with regard to our intentions respecting both Syria and Egypt.

Should a proper occasion present itself, I intend making special reference to the calumnies which I understand have been conveyed to His Majesty's ears in respect of Colonel Stewart.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 183.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Adalia, October 18, 1881.*

I HAVE every reason to believe that during my tenure of office at Aleppo various injurious rumours were set afloat as to my proceedings. Your Lordship is aware what alarm my visit to the Bedouin tribes gave rise to. I now hear by a private letter from Mr. Henderson, the Consul at Aleppo, that Sheikh Ibrahim Jelliyezade, a Nusseri Chief I visited, has been imprisoned by Djemil Pasha, the Vali of Aleppo, and loaded with chains. He further tells me that it is rumoured at Aleppo that a letter was found on the Sheikh in which my name is mentioned. The purport of the letter is that the Sheikh engages to assist us with his tribe in the event of our landing a military expedition.

I have but little doubt that the author of these, and probably many other stories, is his Excellency Djemil Pasha, and that they are all duly reported to the Sultan. The Vali, who is a shrewd and quite unscrupulous man, perfectly appreciates the situation at Stamboul. He knows that His Majesty the Sultan lives in hourly and daily dread of an English occupation, and that the golden road to His Majesty's favour is to pander to his fears.

I would therefore, for the following, and I beg leave to think in general weighty reasons, most urgently suggest that these rumours and accusations should be taken up and thoroughly sifted:—

1. It is dishonouring to the British nation to accuse them of sending emissaries to stir up rebellion among the subjects of a friendly Power.

2. By taking no notice of such accusations, we not only confirm the Sultan in his

suspicions, but we also doubtless make many of his subjects believe there is some truth in them.

3. It appears to me almost impossible to overrate the importance, in view of the friendly relations between the two countries, of disabusing both the Sultan and his subjects (who are being misled by the daily papers) as to our intentions. Should the present ideas on this subject be allowed to continue, there can unfortunately be but little doubt that before long the people will get to consider us greater enemies than even the Russians. This can only be done by a full and impartial inquiry.

4. Personally, also, the accusation is a very grave one against my character as an officer and a gentleman.

For these and other reasons which will doubtless occur to your Excellency, I would most respectfully beg that the matter may be thoroughly inquired into, and the Vali, if culpable, punished. I am quite ready to attend any inquiry and answer for my actions.

I have delayed up to now taking any notice of the matter, thinking that perhaps it would come before me officially.

I am unaware whether Mr. Henderson has written to you on the subject.

In conclusion, I beg to assure your Lordship that mine is not by any means the only case in which Djemil Pasha has made use of the Sultan's fears. I am told, confidentially, that only the other day Hakki Bey, lately Mudai Umum (Procureur-Général) of Aleppo, was accused by Djemil of being an enemy of the Sultan, and without any inquiry exiled to Konia; the real cause being that the Mudai Umum had not been sufficiently pliable in a judicial inquiry Djemil was interested in. At the same time, no one speaks more against the Government than Jemil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

P.S.—As an illustration of the chronic fear the Palace suffers from, the presence of an English man-of-war here some months ago was sufficient to bring down a telegram from the Palace asking what she was doing.

D. H. S.

Inclosure 2 in No. 183.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 29. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, October* 26, 1881.

I HAVE recently received a copy of a despatch, No. 2 of the 18th October, which Major Stewart has addressed to your Lordship with reference to the arrest of Sheikh Ibrahim, of the Ansariyeh (Nusseri), by the Vali of Aleppo. I also saw at Aleppo a copy of a despatch in which Mr. Henderson reported that the arrest of the Sheikh was due to a visit paid to him by Major Stewart.

I think it right to state that Djemil Pasha gave Mr. Nicolson and myself, without any prompting on our part, a different account of the arrest. According to the Vali, a French party of *savants*, one of whom proved to be a staff officer, visited the Ansariyeh Mountains some months ago, ostensibly for scientific purposes, to measure the cranin of the people, but really to survey the country, and prompt the Ansariyeh to demand a Constitution, on the Lebanon pattern, under French protection.

A little earlier in the year Major du Torey, the French Military Attaché, held, at Tripoli, a levée of Ansariyeh Chiefs, who had been brought from the mountains by M. Blanche, the French Consul and Acting British Vice-Consul. Another French expedition, with an engineer officer, had about the same time gone eastward to the Euphrates; and large quantities of land had been purchased by Frenchmen at the two most important bridges over the Orontes.

These circumstances appear to have increased the suspicions of the Vali, who determined to visit the Sheikh himself. Djemil Pasha enlarged on the great respect paid to the Sheikh by the Ansariyeh, who look upon him as almost divine, and mentioned many circumstances to show his great power and influence over the people. We heard from other sources that Djemil Pasha was much nettled at being treated by the Ansariyeh as of inferior dignity to their Sheikh.

On his return to Aleppo the Vali communicated his suspicions that Sheikh Ibrahim was intriguing with the French to Constantinople, and was directed to arrest him. The arrest was carried out at night, and compromising documents are said to have been found in the Sheikh's house.

Almost at the same time Sheikh Ibrahim's brother was arrested at Constantinople, and a petition to the French Ambassador, signed by several hundred men, and requesting a Constitution under French protection, was found on his person.

The attempt to form the Ansariyeh Mountains, from Antioch to Lebanon, into a separate administrative division, under French protection, is not a new idea, and it corresponds with so much that I heard of recent French political activity in Syria, that I believe the reason given by Djemil Pasha for Sheikh Ibrahim's arrest to be correct. At the same time, the Vali's character is such that, if it suited his purpose, he would accuse Major Stewart to the Palace of carrying on intrigues with the Sheikh.

I cannot but regret that Mr. Henderson did not personally communicate with the Vali, before attributing, on second-hand information, Sheikh Ibrahim's arrest to Major Stewart's visit.

Major Stewart raises a question which I have not hitherto referred to in my despatches, viz., the desirability of taking notice of false reports of the proceedings of the military Consuls which are sent by Turkish officials to the Palace, in the hope of gaining favour by working on the suspicious nature of the Sultan.

I am well aware that spies have been sent to follow myself and other officers, and that false and alarming reports of what we were doing have been sent to the Palace. Your Lordship is aware that Lieutenant-Colonel Warlow was accused last year of distributing seditious pamphlets at Ada-bazar; and I know of one Mutessarif who openly boasted in his Medjliss on the strong character of the reports on our proceedings which he sent to Constantinople, and of the effect they had on the Sultan.

I can assure your Lordship that neither I nor any of the Vice-Consuls in Anatolia have ever attempted to raise hopes amongst any class of Ottoman subjects which could never be realized, or have, willingly, given prominence to politics in our conversations with Ottomans. Our time has been occupied in collecting trustworthy information with regard to the government of the country and state of the people, and in remonstrating with the officials when gross cases of misgovernment have been brought to our notice. Our constant contact with the peasantry, and, indeed, with all classes of the people, has given us an insight into the state of the country which few Europeans possess, and it is the knowledge that we possess this insight which often makes our presence unwelcome to Turkish officials.

In conclusion, I would beg to express a hope that if accusations of carrying on political intrigues are ever brought against myself or any of the military Consuls in Anatolia, your Lordship will deny them at once as untrue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 184.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 975. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 8, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward a report of a conversation which took place last Saturday between his Highness Said Pasha and Sir A. Sandison, whom I had instructed to repair to the Porte for the purpose of ascertaining what was known by the Sultan's Ministers in reference to His Majesty's intentions with regard to the appointment of a High Commissioner for Armenia.

Your Lordship will perceive that at all events Said Pasha confirms in a very satisfactory manner the correctness of the statement I have already had the honour of forwarding to your Lordship in reference to the promise given to me by the Sultan at my last interview of making the appointment in question within a month, and that it is a promise that His Majesty himself recognizes.

As more than six weeks have now elapsed since that event, I sent Sir Alfred Sandison yesterday to the Palace, with the request that His Majesty would be pleased to admit me to a further audience for the purpose of again bringing the nomination of a High Commissioner under His Majesty's consideration. The Sultan was good enough to order Sir Alfred Sandison to return to-day for an answer, and this afternoon

I expect to be in a position to communicate His Majesty's reply to your Lordship by telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Memorandum.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I questioned the Prime Minister this morning in regard to the appointment of the Commissioner for Asia.

His Highness stated in reply that the Sultan had told him, in presence of two or three Cabinet Ministers, that he had promised your Excellency to send a High Commissioner to Asia within a month's time. His Highness then added that, on the representations made to the Porte some time ago by the foreign Representatives in reference to this matter, he had, after communicating them to the Sultan, submitted to His Majesty the necessity for sending the proposed Commissioner, but that for the last week or so he had heard nothing from His Majesty on the subject.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Pera, November 5, 1881.

No. 185.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 424.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 14, 1881, 11·50 P.M.

THE Porte has determined upon the dismissal of the Valis of Sivas and Diarbekir. A "Mazbata" to this effect is only awaiting the sanction of the Sultan.

No. 186.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 491.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1881, 6·15 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 424.

You should express to the Porte the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the attention paid to your representations in favour of the dismissal of the Valis.

No. 187.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 764.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 17, 1881.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 951 of the 29th October, forwarding Lieutenant Bennet's Report of his tour in the Vilayet of Sivas, Her Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's action in calling the attention of the Porte unofficially to the state of affairs therein disclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 188.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 770.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1881.

I HAVE read with interest the two Reports by Mr. Cameron inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 946 of the 25th October, the one relating to the Kurds of Sivas, and the other to the mode of collecting the six indirect contributions in that vilayet.

I have to request your Excellency to convey to Mr. Cameron my approval of the manner in which these Reports are drawn up.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 189.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 777.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1881.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 936, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo, relative to the number of Armenian officials who have lately been dismissed from their posts, I approve the manner in which your Excellency has called the attention of the Porte to this proceeding in the note of which you inclose a copy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 190.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 985.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a Mr. Thompson, a well-known merchant trading in mohair at Angora, applied to me a short time ago for assistance under the following circumstances.

Mr. Thompson is in the habit of making large advances to the villagers in Angora at the commencement of the season; and for this purpose and for the collection of the money due to him, he has two agents in the district.

There is at the present moment a sum of about 3,000*l.* due to him from the villagers, and he has been informed by telegram that his agents are unable to collect it, as they are blockaded by brigands, who have already carried off the brother of one of them. The telegram further stated that unless the agents were protected by the authorities they would either be killed or have to quit the place. As this would entail a loss of £ T. 3,000, Mr. Thompson begged me to do what I could towards obtaining assistance for his agents from the local officials.

I accordingly made a representation to Assim Pasha on the subject, and I am happy to say that his Excellency was good enough to telegraph at once to the local authorities to afford every protection in their power to Mr. Thompson's agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 191.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 992.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 11, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Billotti, reporting the desire of the Armenians of the district of Tchaschamba to emigrate to the neighbourhood of Van and Erzeroum, in consequence of the state of affairs described in his despatch to your Lordship No. 29 of the 31st August last year, and the refusal of the Turkish authorities to permit them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Consul Billiotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 58.) *Trebizond, October 29, 1881.*

My Lord,

IT has been brought to my knowledge by the Armenian Bishop of this town that as most of his co-religionists in the Caza of Tcharchamba are decided to emigrate from that district in consequence of their being unable to obtain the settlement of the land question, which I explained in detail in my despatch No. 29 of the 31st August, 1880, he has been endeavouring to induce the 200 families that are now ready to remove to Russia to proceed instead in the vicinity of Van or Erzeroum, where they can be easily provided with lands, but that the Turkish authorities, though willing to allow them to depart for the Caucasus, refuse to grant them permission to settle in Turkish Armenia.

The Bishop, who has referred the case to the Patriarchate, considers that the example given by these emigrants would soon be followed by other of their co-religionists, and attaches not ungrounded importance for the settlement of the Armenian question to the increase by the means of immigration of the Christian population in the Armenian vilayets.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 192.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 1002.) *Constantinople, November 15, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Novikoff and I have completed our revision of the Consular project of reforms for the provinces principally inhabited by Armenians, which I had the honour of submitting to my colleagues at the Conference of the 10th September and the 1st October last, and which they referred for more minute examination to the Russian Ambassador and myself.

M. Novikoff and I are entirely agreed upon all the alterations and additions which have been introduced. They principally consist in bringing into still greater prominence some of the suggestions already submitted to the Ottoman Government in the identic note of the Ambassador's of the 7th October, 1880; such, for instance, as the desirability of so rearranging the boundaries of the vilayets, sandjaks, cazas, and lesser circumscriptions as to englobe within their limits the national groups locally predominant, as well as of organizing the local police in such a manner as will enable the inhabitants to protect themselves against the incursions of outside marauders.

By next messenger I hope to be able to forward to your Lordship a revised copy of the document, which I have not the slightest doubt will receive the cordial approval of all our colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 193.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 779.) *Foreign Office, November 23, 1881.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to the suspicions entertained by the Porte of the proceedings of Her Majesty's military Consuls in Asia Minor, alluded to in the inclosures in your Excellency's despatch No. 971 of the 7th instant, Her Majesty's Government approve the steps taken by you, as reported in that despatch, to reassure the Sultan and his Ministers as to the nature of the mission entrusted to these officers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 194.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 991. Confidential.) *Constantinople, November 10, 1881.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 986 of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Sir Charles Wilson reporting a conversation with the Catholicos of Sis, in which his Beatitude expressed his friendly feeling towards England, and also alluded to the possibility of a rising of the Armenians in the Zeitoun district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 194.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 32. Secret.) *Constantinople, November 7, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that during my recent conversation with the Catholicos of Sis, his Beatitude spoke much of his friendly feeling towards England, and hinted that, if he were assisted in his present difficulties, he would devote himself to the furtherance of British influence and interests in Cilicia. He also asked that he might be placed in communication with the Committee formed last spring in England for encouraging education amongst the Armenians.

At the close of the conversation the Catholicos alluded to Zeitoun affairs, and informed me that he had recently received a letter from Babik, the patriot-bandit, whose name is frequently mentioned in the Zeitoun despatches of Mr. Henderson and Lieutenant Chermside.

According to the letter the Armenians of Zeitoun are in much distress, and they complain bitterly that none of the promises made to them by Said Pacha at the time of the Zeitoun settlement have been carried out. The Catholicos went on to say that if something were not done at once the Zeitoun people would rise again, and have recourse to arms, as the only means of obtaining relief from their present state of misery.

I told the Catholicos that I considered it his duty to use every effort in his power to prevent a rising, and the consequent bloodshed. I also pointed out that there was now a small Turkish garrison, with two guns, close to Zeitoun, and that a rising would be promptly, and perhaps savagely, repressed.

The Catholicos replied that the Zeitoun people had thought of that, and felt quite confident that by taking the soldiers by surprise they could carry the barracks at the first rush.

As I did not wish to continue a discussion of this nature, I closed the conversation, merely remarking that he would be considered largely responsible if any outbreak occurred.

Your Excellency is probably aware that the Catholicos of Sis, when at Sivas last year, used some rather inflammatory language when speaking to the Armenians, and told them, amongst other things, that Babik would head a rising when they were ready. At the same time he tried to make arrangements for obtaining arms from England through an Armenian merchant. His summons to Constantinople stopped these intrigues, and his present attitude towards the Patriarch has much weakened his influence.

There is, however, I fear, too good reason to suppose that troubles may occur at Zeitoun at any moment. No steps have been taken during the last two years to carry out the promised settlement, and the Armenians are still brooding over their real and supposed grievances. The general state of disorder at Zeitoun has already been brought to your Lordship's notice in Lieutenant Bennet's despatch No. 14 of the 7th June last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 195.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 1008.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 15, 1881.*

I HAVE called the attention of Said Pasha to the continued unsatisfactory condition of the Zeitoun question, as exposed in the accompanying Memorandum which has been drawn up by Colonel Sir Charles Wilson at my request.

Said Pasha has given me a distinct and absolute promise that the Governor of Marash shall be dismissed, and that, if possible, a Military Governor, as suggested by Lieutenant Bennet, shall be appointed in his place.

His Highness has also undertaken to promote, as far as possible, the introduction of the other measures recommended for the pacification of the locality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 195.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson on the State of Affairs at Zeitoun.

LIEUTENANT BENNET, R.E., in his despatch No. 14 of the 7th June, 1881, reports that the state of affairs at Zeitoun, "so far as the Christians are concerned, must be considered open rebellion," and that "since the Commission appointed to inquire into their grievances departed the Turkish Government have made no attempt to establish law and order." He also states that he can hardly conceive it "possible that order can be restored without bloodshed."

The people of Zeitoun form a semi-barbarous and utterly lawless community, split up into parties which are constantly quarrelling and fighting with each other. Lieutenant Bennet thinks that an energetic "Military Governor for the sandjak (Marash), with full powers, a knowledge of his responsibility, and a sense of humanity, might restore order at Zeitoun without serious bloodshed, and without any extra troops being sent."

It is, I would submit, necessary to restore order at Zeitoun, as it is a centre of Armenian political disturbance, and troubles there would react on other districts.

Mr. Henderson reports, the 22nd November, 1879, that Said Pasha had received an official notification that the Sultan had sanctioned the execution of all the measures recommended for the pacification of Zeitoun.

I have been able to find no definite statement of these recommendations, but have compiled the following from Lieutenant Chermside's despatch of the 26th November, 1879, and Lieutenant Bennet's of the 7th June, 1881:—

1. The "emlak," land tax, and the "tejired," tax on carriages, which amounted to from 150,000 to 200,000 piastres, were reduced by 100,000 piastres.

Lieutenant Bennet says the former has been reduced to about one-half, the latter to one-tenth of the old assessment, but that only about one-fourth of the amount due from the two taxes has been paid. The people say that the Government does not try to collect the taxes; the Kaimakam says he has tried to do so and failed.

2. The vineyards were to be assessed at one-and-a-half times the land tax, instead of paying a tithe.

The Local Government has not carried this out, but has asked for a tithe as in former times.

3. The sheep tax was to be reduced from 6 to 1½ piastres per head.

The full tax of 6 piastres is still collected.

4. The arrears of taxes (between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 piastres) were to be settled by an equitable arrangement. Some of the people denied that this had been done, whilst others assured Lieutenant Bennet that it had.

5. The people offered to serve as soldiers instead of paying the military exemption tax.

This they now deny, but say they are willing to pay a reduced exemption tax.

6. If the Governor was a Muslem there was to be a Christian Assistant-Governor, and *vice versâ*.

This has never been carried out, and there have been three Moslem Governors since the winter of 1879.

7. A mixed corps of zaptiehs, Christian and Moslem, to be formed.

This has been done, but the police say they have no power over the Christians whilst the Moslems are orderly and pay their taxes.

8. A school was to be established. There is now a well-managed school.

9. The arms taken from the people were to be returned.

They complain that out of 2,500 only 500 have been restored.

10. The Government dues on the iron mine were to be reduced 1 in 20 of the output.

There has been no attempt to collect the tax, and nothing has been paid.

11. Emigration was to be encouraged, and lands provided for the emigrants.

Nothing has been done, and the people declare that they will accept no lands except those on the Gyuksun River, which were taken from them about fifteen years ago and given to the Circassians.

12. A general amnesty was proclaimed, and Said Pasha obtained a written guarantee from the Notables of Zeitoun and all the villagers of the district that they would for the future be responsible for good order, suppress brigandage, and give up offenders to the authorities.

The people now deny that they ever gave such a guarantee, though the Kaimakam told Lieutenant Bennet he had it in his possession. They have, as Lieutenant Bennet's despatch of the 7th June last shows, quite failed to carry out their obligations on this head.

It is clear from the above that though the Government has not, in all cases, kept its promises, the Zeitoun people have equally failed to carry out their part of the agreement.

The real fault, however, lies with the Turkish Government, which, since the winter of 1879, has left Zeitoun affairs very much to manage themselves.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

November 11, 1881.

No. 196.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1014.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 17, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour of forwarding, for your information, a Memorandum which has been obtained for me by Sir Charles Wilson from the Catholicos of Sis and the Bishop of Sivas, respecting the controversy which is now pending between the former and the Patriarch of the Armenian Church at Constantinople.

I had hoped, before forwarding these documents, to have been able to inform your Lordship that the dispute had been amicably settled, as it is eminently desirable it should be.

I have learned to-day that the Armenian Patriarch has told Major Trotter that the Catholicos of Sis has accepted all the conditions set forth in Sir C. Wilson's Memorandum, and signed the Agreement. It appears, also, that the Catholicos has himself written to the Porte, and asked that the Berat granted to him might be withdrawn, and a new one issued through the Patriarch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 196.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 31.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 7, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have recently had interviews with the Catholicos of Sis and with the Bishop of Sivas, who is President of the

Committee appointed to examine into the questions at issue between the Catholicos, on the one hand, and the Patriarch and National Council on the other.

I inclose a Memorandum of the statements made to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 196.

Memorandum of Statements made by the Catholicos of Sis and by the Bishop of Sivas.

THE Sis Catholicos stated that the questions at issue between himself and the Patriarch and National Council had made no progress towards settlement. The principal question, though apparently a religious one, is really political. The Catholicos of Etchmiadzin is always under the influence of the Russian Government, and his attitude towards the Sis Catholicate is dictated by Russia. The aim of that Power is to make the Etchmiadzin Catholicos the supreme Head of the Armenian Church, and so establish her influence in Cilicia. The proposal of the National Council to place the Sis Catholicos under the jurisdiction of Etchmiadzin would virtually make the Catholicos a tool in the hands of Russia for furthering her interests in Cilicia, and he was determined never to accept such a position. The Patriarch is looked upon as the "Vekil" of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, and naturally sides with him.

The Catholicos said that M. Ivanoff, the Russian Consul at Aleppo, had made great efforts to persuade him to submit to Etchmiadzin, and that, a few years ago, when the Porte was about to grant him a Berat, General Ignatieff stopped it.

He has now obtained his Berat direct from the Porte, and it is for this, and for some slight modifications in the document, that the Patriarch and the National Council are so angry with him. The principal changes are that the Berat is said to be granted on the demand, "takrir" of the Catholicos, and not of the Patriarch; and a clause, which used to give the Catholicos the right of expelling from Cicilia any Latin or Protestant missionaries, has been omitted.

The Patriarch and the National Council insist on a fresh Berat in the proper form.

Djevdet Pasha, Minister of Justice, says this is impossible.

The Catholicos intended leaving last week, but he has delayed his departure at the request of the National Council, who have appointed a Committee to try and effect a compromise. He has also been promised the Grand Cordon of the Mejidieh after Bairam. If he cannot come to an arrangement, he proposes to return to Sis and resign; but having been once consecrated Catholicos of Sis, no one can be consecrated in his place.

The Bishop of Sivas, who is President of the Committee, appointed by the National Council, said that the Catholicos wished to be independent of the Patriarch, the National Council, and of the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, the supreme Head of the Church. This would be contrary to the interests of the Armenians.

The Committee had prepared their Report, and the following proposals were to be submitted to the National Council, and afterwards to the Sis Catholicos.

1. That the Constitution should be so modified as to give the Catholicos a voice in the appointment of Bishops to dioceses in Cilicia.

2. That the Catholicos should retain the right of consecrating Bishops, but only at the recommendation of, and with the permission of, the Patriarch.

3. That the Catholicos should recognize the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin as supreme Head of the Church.

4. That the Catholicos should have full power to deal with all spiritual matters in his Catholicate, merely reporting to the Patriarch; but that all temporal and political questions must be referred to the National Council.

5. That a delegate should be sent to Sis to inquire into the financial embarrassments of the convents, and to report to the National Council, who would then take the necessary action.

The Bishop added that he could not foresee the results if the Catholicos did not accept these conditions. He also said that the Armenians could not accept the Berat granted to the Catholicos, as many privileges given to former Catholicos had been omitted.

The Patriarch is now in correspondence with the Porte on this subject.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 197.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1018.)
Constantinople, November 17, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral giving some further details as to the famine in his Consular district.

As it appeared from the above despatch that some difficulties had arisen both with regard to the transmission of the tithes of the Yuzgat Sandjak to Angora, and also in respect to the transport of grain from Tchoroum to the capital of the vilayet, I caused the substance of Mr. Gatheral's Report to be communicated to the President of the Famine Commission.

Abdurrahman Pasha stated, in reply, that a special Commission had been sent by the Porte to examine into the matter, and that he hoped that the question of the transmission of the grain tithes would be satisfactorily settled.

I have also drawn the attention of the Porte to the conduct of the gendarmerie officer Halil Agha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 197.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 120.)
Angora, October 28, 1881.

My Lord,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch dated the 15th October, inclosing a copy of a despatch to Earl Granville with reference to the state of this province and the imminent danger of famine and suffering during the ensuing winter.

As your Excellency has been good enough to bring to the notice of Abdurrahman Pasha the inadequate measures that have been adopted by the local authorities, I beg to call attention to some further details in the hope that your Excellency will see fit to lay them before the President of the Famine Commission, as he is not likely to be informed of them from any other source.

In accordance with the decisions of the Famine Commission here, the grain tithe of the Yuzgat Sandjak should long ere now have been transferred to this sandjak for distribution to the starving people.

The Caza or District of Tchoroum, in the Yuzgat Sandjak, is within easy reach of this town, and the tithe there, amounting to 15,000 bushels of wheat and barley, was confidently counted upon as available for necessities here. I regret to have to inform your Excellency, however, that the population of Tchoroum resists the transfer, and informs the Kaimakam that this grain will not be permitted to leave the district, and if attempted they are ready to use force. The reason alleged is that though the harvest there has been abundant, the whole soil is permeated by locusts' eggs, and that they have consequently too good reason to dread scarcity for themselves next year; they therefore insist that the whole supply available should remain where it is, and they are quite ready to pay Government the full value of the grain in ready money.

The Kaimakam, by means of turning out his whole available force of zaptiehs and loading the draught animals at night, has succeeded in forwarding a few hundred bushels, but telegraphs that he will be unable to forward any more, and appeals, in his bewilderment, for further instructions, and insists that a military force should be sent to protect the Government granaries. This incident is the more alarming as one prime cause of the famine of 1873-74 was the resistance offered by the people to the transfer of grain from one district to another, a circumstance his Excellency Abdurrahman Pasha will no doubt recollect if he is reminded of it.

The Caza or District of Kynaneh is the nearest grain-producing district to Angora that escaped the ravages of locusts; the distances from its granaries to town being only six to twelve hours; but here also the authorities are menaced with the same difficulty, and up to date none of the tithe grain has yet arrived. Some embezzlements by officials is also reported; a granary supposed to contain 600 to 800 bushels was found on examination to be empty. The zaptieh Yuz-bashi, or Captain of Gendarmerie, Halil Agha, is, I am reliably informed, responsible for this irregularity, he having

disposed of the grain and applied the proceeds to his own purposes. I have demanded that this officer should be suspended and brought here for examination, but his services are much appreciated owing to his success as a tax-collector, and the authorities seem disposed to condone his fault.

These incidents will serve to show the dismal prospects for the future, and the result is a kind of panic, which has forced up the price of grain in eight days from 28 piastres (*4s. 9d.*) to 40 piastres (*6s. 10d.*) per bushel, with every prospect of a further addition to these famine prices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 198.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1028. Confidential.)

Constantinople, November 18, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship extracts from private letters addressed to Sir C. Wilson by Dr. Barnum, Principal of the American College at Kharpoot, who is described as an able and trustworthy man, containing information respecting Dersim and the Kurdish Beys.

I think that these extracts are worthy of your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 198.

The Rev. H. N. Barnum, D.D., to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

(Confidential.)
(Extract.)

Kharpoot, August 25, 1881.

THE most intelligent of our Protestant laymen, and, I may say, one of the most clear-headed and intelligent of all the people in this region, has just returned from the Dersim Mountains, where he has spent some six or seven months among the Kurds in the collection of the sheep tax.

Sarkis Agha is a native of Chemishgezak, and a townsman of Fikri Pasha, the Vali of Dersim. Chemishgezak belongs to the Dersim Vilayet, and its borders extend into the Dersim Mountains, and it is more or less subject to the depredations of the Dersim Kurds. For two years past very little has been heard from these Kurds, but before that time they attracted a good deal of attention from the Turkish Government and the Embassies. Among the most important questions to be considered in the general subject of the reform of Asiatic Turkey is, I presume, that of the large Kurdish population who occupy the country from Sivas to the Persian frontier. From my conversations with Sarkis Agha, from my previous knowledge of that region, I received several well-defined impressions.

1. Fikri Pasha is an intelligent and energetic man, one who really desires the good of the Kurds. Sarkis Agha thinks that he is honest, although he receives presents occasionally from the Aghas and Beys. He is not a fanatic, but he is very earnest to make these Kurds Mahommedans. They are of the Kizil-Bashi order.

2. The establishment of the vilayet has proved a complete failure. The Kurds had hoped a good deal from having a separate Government, a Vilayet, or a Mutessarifik; but they are disappointed and discouraged. In all these months no Court has been established. A Cadi has come, but the other officials, who were to come from Constantinople for the Department of Justice have not been sent. All the other paraphernalia of the vilayet system, as Scribes, Kaimakams, and employés of various sorts and kinds, have been introduced to an excess. When the vilayet was constituted there was a rush of hungry men in quest of office. Hundreds have been appointed in various capacities at small salaries, which are not paid, and they are a hindrance rather than a help in the Administration. A few first-class men, well paid, would cost less than the present horde, and they would accomplish something.

3. It would be very easy to secure the good-will and the allegiance of the Kurds.

They are tired of the despotism of their own Chiefs, and of their own broils and unsettled condition. They desire a good Government, and would soon give it their confidence and support, that is, so far as could be expected from uncivilized mountaineers. The simple means is an honest and intelligent Administration. The Kurds do not believe in the Turks, do not trust them. They will give a Christian ten times the confidence they will a Turk. They would come to Sarkis Agha and to other Christians with their grievances freely, but not to the Pasha, and this excited the Pasha's displeasure. He charged both Christians and Kurds with concerting schemes together against the Government. He professes to think that the Government has reason to fear from combinations among the Armenians, and from a rebellious spirit among them, but notwithstanding all that has been said in diplomatic papers and the press in regard to the danger of an Armenian rebellion, I must say that I think there is just about the same likelihood of a combination among the sheep against their masters. I wish that the Armenians had more of the spirit which would make a rebellion possible, for there would be more hope that they might be prepared to appreciate and profit by a larger measure of liberty. There are few Zeitouns in Turkey. The Bishop of Arabkir, who was sent to Constantinople under escort in April, was charged with training a class of men for military service, but it is sheer nonsense. But this is a digression. Fikri Pasha has expressed his intention to remove the Christian members of the Government, ostensibly because the Christian population is so small, whereas, if worthy Christians could be found, the number should be increased, and Kurds too should be made to share a part of the responsibility of governing. The notorious Isak Bey is a member of the Government. The whole aim of the Administration, as it appears to be the chief aim elsewhere, is to collect money. The estimated revenue of the vilayet is 30,000 liras, and the expense is a little more than that. During the last five months 4,000 liras have been sent to the capital, whereas, until the Government is well established, aid should come from without until the system is simplified. The Kurds understand very well that the Government is not for them, but they are for the Government, hence they cannot regard it with favour.

The Turks will never succeed in establishing a good Government for the Kurds. They will fail there even more signally than in other parts of the country. My judgment may not be worth much, but it has been strengthened by many years' observation, until it has become a settled and unalterable conviction, that without a controlling European element in the Government the Turks will go from bad to worse, and all their talk about reform will be simple irony. All the intelligent men whom I meet, Turks among the rest, express the same conviction. The Armenians, too, as a class, are no better fitted for political service than the Turks, in fact, not so well.

The Kurds have good material in them. If they were educated and civilized they would become a superior race. They have been oppressed and impoverished, and are well nigh disheartened. Sarkis Agha thinks that they will be treated in such a way that they will find that it is for their interest to become Moslem, and that large numbers will yield. When I asked him what would be the effect if the Government were to collect their arms, he replied, "The only thing the Kurd has left upon which he takes pride are his gun and sword. Although he is poor, he has a sense of honour, and he can fight, and he is therefore a man. If this were taken from him he would feel himself degraded, and would be thoroughly dispirited."

Shevket Pasha, the man who was in command in Bulgaria at the time of the Bulgarian massacres, and concerning whom Lord Derby made the demand that he should be dismissed from the service and never employed again, is here. He has the command of the Redifs. He is a pleasant-appearing man, and not so much of a savage in manner as some of the rest of his class. Riva Mustapha Pasha is one of the most energetic and efficient men I have seen. New barracks and a military hospital are building here now, and he is managing it very fairly, collecting the money from the people without offending them, and using it very economically. Ferik Fazli Pasha is very affable, but I never heard of his accomplishing very much. There is an Osman Bey, a native of Ezin, who does wonderfully well in subduing restless Kurds. He has been to the south and east, and reduced many turbulent districts to subjugation, rejecting, it is said, all bribes and presents. He is a plain man, but he is worthy to be a Mushir compared with many of these lazy, raki-drinking Pashas.

I wrote to you a short time since in regard to the condition of the Protestants. There is a small community in Peri, a town which now belongs to the Dersim Vilayet. They made application, a good while ago, to be separated from the Armenians, but

have not succeeded. The other day they tore down an old building which they had bought, and, with the permission of the Local Government, began to build a house which should answer for their teacher to live in, and also a school-room. The Armenians entered complaint that it was near their church, &c., and procured an order to suspend the work; and this leads me to say that in a conversation with our Vali this week about it, he said that no school can be built without an order from Constantinople. Up to the present time the Local Government has granted permission except where there was special reason for referring to Constantinople. As a member of the Board of Education, I have used my influence to have schools opened in every town and village, but if the tedious process of securing an order from the capital must be gone through, we might as well give up all attempts to have the people educated. Was there ever a Government more centralized than this, or one which represses enterprise of every kind more thoroughly? There should be the fullest liberty for building schools, and not only so, the Government should encourage it. The Local Governments ought to be able to decide whether there is any obstacle in any particular case. I wish the Vacouf may be administered in the interest of education, a part of it, at least.

The demand for money from Constantinople I hear continues, and I learn that the orders are peremptory.

Inclosure 2 in No. 198.

The Rev. H. N. Barnum, D.D., to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. Wilson.

(Confidential.)
(Extract.)

Kharpoot, September 22, 1881.

I HAVE heard that the question of plans and measures for the reform of Asiatic Turkey is under consideration at the capital. One of the measures provided for in the Berlin Treaty is the restraining of the Aghas and Beys who oppress the people. The reform has begun, as I see by the "Levant Herald," by turning loose the lawless characters whom Abédine Pasha arrested and started on their way to Albania! Probably you will hear little more of the villainy of these men, for which they will be sure to wreak vengeance upon the poor people who complained of them; they will be a little more cautious in their manner of proceeding, and the people will not be likely to make known again the misdeeds of these cruel men, for they have learned that it is better to suffer the ills they have than to run the serious risk of encountering still greater.

In a previous letter I have mentioned the name of Isak Bey, of Chursanjak. He is in character something like Fettah Bey, of Kurdistan, one of Abédine Pasha's men, but with intelligent men he is as bland, and affable, and plausible, as a saint. Abédine Pasha had his name on his list of men to be banished, when he came to Khurpoot, but soon after his arrival he received a reprimand from Constantinople for the vigour of his proceedings in sending away so many men, and so let Isak Bey alone. He also told me that he had been informed that it was on the whole better to let Isak Bey remain, but this is because the Bey, by the liberal use of money, has secured the influences of the most influential men in the country upon his side.

I have just had a call from one of the most intelligent and reliable of our people, a man who is on very friendly relations with Isak Bey. He has just returned from Chursanjak, and he informs me that a priest, Ghougas (Luke) by name, of the village of Jano, a village which belongs to Isak Bey, went to the village of Yeni Keui in the performance of his ecclesiastical functions. Last Sunday morning, the 18th, the priest passed by a threshing floor of the latter village, where Arslan Bey, a son of Isak Bey, was sitting. This Arslan is a son-in-law of Hadji Mahmoud Effendi of this city, a member of the Criminal Court, a man who represented the district in the Turkish Parliament while it lasted. Arslan Bey's servant, who was standing by, threw a melon at the priest, and the priest retaliated by throwing a stone at the servant. Upon this Arslan Bey rushed upon the priest with his cane, severely beating him, tearing his kalpak into threads, and tearing his church Prayer-book ("Mashdotz") to pieces, cursing him meanwhile, as a Turk knows how to curse. My friend was informed by several persons who witnessed the affair that the priest was even left in a dangerous condition. The next day they bore him home upon a donkey. The day following this word was sent to the priest by Isak Bey to leave the house, as the Bey claims all the houses in that region. The villagers said that they should make no complaint for

this outrage, as they did not dare to. Charvanjak now belongs to the new Dersim Vilayet, and Isak Bey is a member of the Idaré Medjliss.

I have already written to you that Isak Bey seems determined to crush Protestantism out of Yashavank, the village where he lives. Formerly there was a good school and quite a little Protestant congregation. The leading Armenians of the village told the Bey that if the people became Protestant they would not bear false testimony for him, they would not work for him on Sunday (as he has himself learned by experience), they would be less obedient to his exactions, and, in short, would not be profitable subjects; so he has openly told the Protestants that he cannot have two kinds of religion in his village. He has practically carried out his threat to suppress Protestantism. The more timid Protestants keep their profession to themselves. One man was turned out of his house and so beaten and maltreated that he was obliged to flee with his family to another village. Another, who has been a leader among the Protestants, has been for a year and a-half subjected to a series of persecutions which he says he can no longer endure. The garden and vineyard which he himself had brought under cultivation was, last spring, taken from him, and the Rev. Mr. Allen, who has just returned from Chassanjak and Geghi, informs me that Isak Bey has now taken away from Hazar, the Protestant, the land which he was cultivating for the Bey as a tenant, and which he had prepared for sowing, without any compensation for his labour. He did this, too, last year.

Mr. Allen reports that the prison in Geghi is a lower room, 25 feet by 12½ feet, with a door which opens at the end of a long hall, and the only windows are two small apertures in the opposite end of the room, some 6 or 8 inches square. Thirty men are confined in this place. Each man is allowed to go out once during the day to attend to the calls of nature, but at any other time relief is sought in one corner of the room occupied as prison.

Geghi is one of the districts where the mahlieh system was introduced. There is a Christian Mudir, Mohannes Agha, at Semeau, a man of superior ability, and yet the office amounts to just nothing. I saw this last November on a visit to Geghi, but now it is even more apparent.

Since writing the above I have made more particular inquiry about the priest. He came to Yeni Keui to perform the rite of baptism; he had started for home, and in passing the threshing floor the Turks were playing with melons, tossing them at one another, when Arslan Bey called to his servant: "throw one at the priest." This he did, hitting the priest, and he in retaliation hit the servant with a stone and was beaten. The priest is said to have had his head badly wounded, and was carried home on a donkey.

There is still a chance for improvement in civilization in this country.

No. 199.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 1032. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, November 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your information, an extract from the "Stamboul" newspaper, announcing the fact that the Catholicos of Sis has been authorized by the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople to officiate "pontificalement," in the church at Pera.

This fact is intended to publish and emphasize to the Armenian world the reconciliation of the Catholicos of Sis with the Patriarch and the main body of the Armenian ecclesiastical community. I have already, in my despatch No. 1014 of the 17th instant, transmitted to your Lordship an outline of the agreement which has been arrived at. Should any further details reach me worthy of attention, I will take care to transmit them.

In your Lordship's No. 466 of the 16th July you were good enough to ask me my opinion in reference to the relations of the Catholicos of Sis with the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin and the main body of the Armenian Church. I replied, at the time, that having so recently arrived in the country, I scarcely felt myself able to deal with the subject. Having since applied myself to its consideration, I came to the conclusion that it would not be advisable for this Embassy or for Her Majesty's Government to countenance the Catholicos of Sis in his quarrel with the Patriarch. Personally the present holder of the Cilician dignity is a great intriguer, and in no way deserving of our esteem.

Although from a political point of view it might be argued that it is advisable to erect a rival authority in the person of the Catholicos of Sis to the Etchmiadzin Catholicos (who being resident in Russia might become an instrument in the hands of the Czar for dominating the Armenian Church in Asia Minor), there appear to be many stronger considerations militating against such a policy. In the first place, it appeared to me that we had no right, merely from political motives, to encourage a schism in a Church with which we were entirely unconnected. In the next, though the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin is universally considered as the religious Head of the Armenian community, its political chief in Asia Minor is the Patriarch at Constantinople. It is by supporting and defending the prestige and supremacy of the latter, and especially that of the free Constitutional Assembly by which the affairs of the Ottoman Gregorian Church are regulated, that we shall best counteract the supposed designs of Russia against its liberties. In the third place, the points for which the Catholicos of Sis was contending were not of themselves of a nature to authorize our taking the grave step of championing his cause.

Under these circumstances I have taken various fitting opportunities of allowing both the Catholicos of Sis and the Orthodox Armenians to understand that England did not intend to intervene in the controversy, and only deplored the further continuance of the quarrel; and I have reason to believe that it is the knowledge that he could not count on our support which has induced the Sis Catholicos to come to terms with the Patriarch.

I may add that although the great majority of the Armenian people have sided with the Patriarch throughout the entire dispute, they are not the less desirous to maintain and keep alive the traditions, privileges, and functions of the Sis Catholicate, in order that if ever the Government of Russia, through the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, should seek to interfere with the privileges of the Armenian Church of Asia Minor, they may advance to the position of Supreme Primate the Catholicos of Sis, who being also possessed of an arm of St. Gregory the Illuminator, would be able to supply an unfailing fount of the holy oil upon which the valid consecration of the Armenian Bishops depends.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of November 19, 1881.

LE CATHOLICOS DE CILICIE À PÉRA.—Une grande solennité aura lieu demain à l'Église Arménienne de Péra.

Par suite de l'arrangement de l'incident survenu, il y a quelque temps, entre le Catholicos Arménien de Cilicie et le Patriarche de Constantinople, ce dernier a autorisé le Catholicos à officier pontificalement dans l'église de Péra.

C'est la première fois, dit-on, qu'un Catholicos officie à Constantinople; aussi fait-on de grands préparatifs. Quatre Archevêques et dix Évêques assisteront à l'office.

Sa Sainteté Mgr. Nersès présidera cette solennité, à laquelle sont invitées toutes les Notabilités de la capitale. Après la messe, M. Agopian, Notable négociant, offrira chez lui un déjeuner au clergé et aux Notables.

No. 200.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 161.) *Tehran, October 29, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 93 of the 23rd September, inclosing copy of Lord Dufferin's No. 792 of the 9th September, in which his Excellency transmitted copy of a Report received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van respecting the conflict which recently took place near the frontier between the Persian troops and the Shekak Kurds under Ali Khan.

I again questioned the Minister for Foreign Affairs, when I saw him on the

25th instant, as to the statement that when the Shekak tribe was defeated and sought refuge in Turkish territory, the Persian troops crossed the frontier and followed them in pursuit on Turkish soil. His Excellency had denied on previous occasions that there was any truth in this report; but at our last interview he said that more accurate information had been received from the authorities in Azerbijan, and that although none of the regular troops had entered the Turkish territory, it now appeared that some irregular Persian cavalry had done so, and that they had destroyed three or four small hamlets. It was also stated, he added, and it might possibly be true, that the inhabitants of these places had not only been plundered of their property, but that some lives had also been sacrificed.

Mirza Saeed Khan further informed me that the Ameer Nizam was in communication with the authorities in Van, to whom he had proposed that Commissioners should be appointed on both sides to visit the district where this occurrence took place, and that the Persian Government would pay compensation for all injury which had been done by their subjects on Turkish territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 201.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 1049.) *Constantinople, November 25, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note I have addressed to the Sublime Porte, remonstrating against the liberation, by the Aleppo authorities, of Daoud Effendi, ex-Kaïmakam of Zeitoun, who was brought to Aleppo to take his trial for the murder of his Christian servant about four years ago.

Daoud Effendi's maladministration of Zaitoun, which culminated in this brutal murder, was so notorious that I have felt it my duty to point out to Assim Pasha the bad effect his liberation would have on public opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 201.

The Earl of Dufferin to Assim Pasha.

Constantinople, November 16, 1881.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE learnt with much concern that the authorities at Aleppo have liberated Daoud Effendi, ex-Kaïmakam of Zeitoun, without trial. As your Excellency is aware, this individual was, about a year since, deprived of a high post he held at Bussorah and brought to Aleppo to take his trial for the murder of his Christian servant some four years ago. This murder, as your Excellency will recollect, was accomplished in the most revolting manner. Missing a small sum of money, Daoud Effendi accused one of his Christian servants of having stolen it, and on the latter protesting his innocence, he hung him up by the feet to the beams of a stable. After leaving his victim in this position for twelve hours, Daoud Effendi again tried to extort a confession of his guilt from him, and failing to do so, seized a knife and decapitated the man with his own hand.

His maladministration of Zeitoun, which culminated in this brutal murder, led to the subsequent disturbances in that district.

I am informed that Daoud Effendi has been released on the ground that his crime is included in the general amnesty granted to the Zeitounlis; but this cannot be put forward as a reason, for the amnesty was never intended to apply to his case. The President of the Criminal Court strenuously opposed his liberation, which was obtained, it is stated, by the Muffetish Adlié and the Mudaimoun, over whom Daoud Effendi, who is a rich man, had gained some influence.

I need hardly point out to your Excellency that if this man is allowed to escape the punishment due for his crimes, it will produce a deplorable effect on public opinion, and I feel sure that I need only call your Excellency's attention to the question for immediate orders to be issued to insure his apprehension and trial.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 202.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 1052.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch addressed by Major Everett to Major Trotter respecting affairs at Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Major Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, October 29, 1881.*

I BEG to inform you that I returned here on the 26th instant after an absence of over two months

A Report on the country through which I have travelled will be forwarded to you at an early date.

The Mutessarif of Bayazid is still in Erzeroum. It appears that prior to his suspension two telegrams were received from Constantinople: the first ordering his recall to Erzeroum, the second instructing the Vali to cause an examination to be made into his conduct. Shortly after his arrival, the Vali called together the Idareh Medjliss and read the instructions. They do not appear to have contained any special accusation, and it is not known here whether the Mutessarif has been accused of peculation or of cruelty and injustice. It was finally proposed by the Vali and agreed to by the Medjliss that the Commandant of the Bayazid garrison, Colonel Mehemet Ali Bey, should be written to, and it is supposed that the Government here intend to content themselves with the opinion of that officer, for the Mutessarif has not been called up again, nor have any further steps been taken in the matter. Probably a more unjust form of inquiry could not have been adopted, whether the result be favourable or unfavourable to the Mutessarif.

But it is possible that he may be in reality dismissed, and that the examination is merely a matter of form. On this head I cannot give you any precise information at present. At the meeting of the Medjliss the Vali said that if the Mutessarif could justify himself he would return to Bayazid. The Mutessarif himself continues to affirm that he is not dismissed, but that, if he should be, he will receive a better post than Bayazid in return for the services which he has rendered to his Government while Mutessarif of that sandjak.

So far as I can learn, the papers taken by him from Ghaziros Effendi have not yet been returned. To my communication of the 2nd September the Vali answered that he had written to the Mutessarif again on the matter, but had received no reply. I am now making further inquiries.

I regret to have to inform you that the American Mission-house was burnt to the ground on the night of the 27th instant, whether by accident or design is not known as yet. The fire arose in that part of the house usually occupied by Mr. Cole, who is now, I believe, travelling in Syria, and, aided by a strong breeze, spread with great rapidity across the building to that portion inhabited by the Rev. R. Chambers, the main of whose things were saved. The property of Mr. Cole was, however, entirely destroyed, together with a valuable library. A number of soldiers who were present to keep order and give assistance behaved very badly. During the efforts made to save the property they were more intent on appropriating anything they could lay their hands on than on their duty, and in the demolitions which, in the absence of water, had to be made to prevent the fire from spreading, they were worse than useless. A fire engine of about the same size and power as those commonly in use for watering gardens, and furnished with about 20 yards of hose, was produced about an hour and a-half after the fire broke out, and found out of order, nor could it be made to work until the fire was over. Fortunately, these incidents are of rare occurrence in Erzeroum; indeed, this is the first of the kind that has taken place during the two years I have resided here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 203.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)

E
(No. 1059. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 28, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had proposed to M. Novikoff, the Russian Ambassador, that we should repair to the Porte together for the purpose of waiting upon the Foreign Minister and representing to him jointly, and in the name of our colleagues, our great anxiety at the delay which was taking place in the nomination of a High Commissioner for the provinces in Asia Minor principally inhabited by Armenians. The Russian Ambassador having been good enough to acquiesce in my proposal, and having obtained the necessary authorization from our colleagues, we called together on Assim Pasha on Tuesday, the 22nd instant.

M. Novikoff opened the proceedings by calling his Excellency's attention to the previous representations which had been severally made by the Ambassadors in reference to this subject. He insisted strongly on the unhappy condition of the populations in whose interest the appointment of a Commissioner was desired, and made his Excellency clearly understand that we pressed the matter upon his attention the more earnestly because, in the first place, we were anxious to leave the initiative to His Majesty, and, in the next, because we were convinced that the step we recommended was entirely in the interest of the Sultan's Government.

I followed M. Novikoff in the same strain, and reminded Assim Pasha that the Sultan had made me a promise upon the subject; that I had reported this promise to my colleagues and to your Lordship; that my account of what took place would, in all probability, be communicated to the British Parliament; and that, if His Majesty's promise remained unfulfilled, such a circumstance could not fail to occasion comment and surprise.

His Excellency said he would acquaint the Sultan with the fact of our visit, and with the purport of what we had said.

In reference to the foregoing subject, I may mention that the German Chargé d'Affaires has informed me that, in compliance with instructions from Berlin, he had sent a message to the Sultan, through his Confidential Secretary, Reschid Bey, conveying an earnest recommendation from his Government that the delay in appointing a High Commissioner should no longer continue. He has since received an intimation from the Palace that His Majesty is occupied night and day with the elaboration of a project of reform for the provinces of Asia Minor, and that in a few days he will receive a reply to his communication which the Sultan has no doubt will prove eminently satisfactory.

Last Thursday I had the pleasure of receiving at dinner the Ministers of State and some of the high functionaries belonging to His Majesty's household. Amongst them was Munir Bey, the First Chamberlain and Interpreter. I took an opportunity of speaking strongly to his Excellency on the subject of the Commissioner, and begged him to remind the Sultan that our object in pressing for the nomination of a Commissioner was to tide over the interval which must necessarily elapse before any plan of reform could be elaborated and applied, and I again dwelt upon the misery which in the meantime was being endured by the unfortunate inhabitants of the eastern districts of Asia Minor, in consequence of the prevailing insecurity of life and property, and the complete anarchy in the midst of which they were compelled to live.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 204.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 452. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 28, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 425 of the 29th ultimo, I asked Count Hatzfeldt whether there was any truth in a report I had seen in the German papers that Drigalski Pasha had been granted the railway concession by the Sultan which Dr. Strousberg had failed to obtain from the Porte.

Count Hatzfeldt replied that he had not noticed the report in question, nor had he received any information on the subject from Constantinople.

The German Government, his Excellency added, as he had occasion to tell me before, gave neither support nor encouragement to financial speculations of this description in Turkey, and, in fact, knew little about them.

I observed that I was aware that Dr. Strousberg did not enjoy the support of the German Government, but that I was under the impression that General Drigalsky, whose acquaintance I had made at a dinner at the German Court, enjoyed the favour and protection of the Imperial Family, and that the Sultan had appointed him in consequence one of his Aides-de-camp.

Count Hatzfeldt replied that my impressions were correct, but that if General Drigalsky, who was a very poor man, with a large family, chose to run the risks of commercial speculations, it was on his own responsibility and without the support of the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 205.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 6, 2·20 P.M.)

(No. 439.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 6, 1881, 1·50 P.M.*

I HAVE absolutely certain information that nothing will be done by the Sultan about Armenia until after he shall have received a communication from Reschid Bey, one of the emissaries sent to Berlin.

Though quite a young man, Reschid Bey has great influence with the Sultan. If Germany will cordially join us in pushing the Armenian question, Sultan, I think, will yield.

Yesterday I sent a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to ask for an audience for the purpose of reminding the Sultan of his promise to me about the Commissioner, and of making further representations to His Majesty.

No. 206.

Earl Granville to Lord Ampthill.

(No. 384.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 7, 1881, 7 P.M.*

LORD DUFFERIN'S telegram No. 439 of yesterday, repeated to you.

Urge German Government to join in pushing the Armenian question.

No. 207.

Earl Granville to Lord Ampthill.

(No. 492. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 7, 1881.*

YOUR Excellency will see from the telegram from Lord Dufferin, of which a copy is inclosed,* that his Excellency is of opinion that if the German Government will cordially join Her Majesty's Government in pressing the Sultan to take up the question of reforms in Armenia, His Majesty will yield. This being so, you should lose no opportunity of endeavouring to secure the co-operation of the German Government in urging the Sultan to action.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 205.

No. 208.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received December 8, 5 P.M.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, December 8, 1881.*

YOUR Lordship's Nos. 383 and 384 of yesterday.

Count Hatzfeldt says he has already urged Armenian question at Constantinople, and will do so again here, when he sees Reschid Bey before his departure.

No. 209.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 805.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 8, 1881.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the action taken by your Excellency, as reported in your despatch No. 985 of the 10th ultimo, to assist Mr. Thompson, whose agents in Angora were unable to collect money due to him from villagers of the district in consequence of their being blockaded by brigands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 210.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 806.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 8, 1881.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1018 of the 17th ultimo forwarding copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Gatheral respecting the difficulties that had arisen in the transmission of the grain tithes to Angora, and I have to state that Her Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's having communicated the substance of Mr. Gatheral's Report to the President of the Famine Commission.

Your Excellency's representations to the Porte relative to the conduct of the gendarmerie officer, Hallil Agha, are likewise approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 211.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 809.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 8, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1062, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, on the subject of the dispute between the Catholicos of Sis and the Armenian Patriarch, and the relations between the former and the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin; and I have to state that Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the views of your Excellency in the matter as therein expressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 212.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 1070.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 1, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting that 300 Greek families from Niksar recently embarked at Ordoo for Batoum.

The despatch also states that the number of Russian emigration agents has been

lately increased, and that they are sparing no efforts to promote further emigration to Russia on the part of the Greek population.

As your Lordship will remember, I have already called the attention of the Porte unofficially to this state of affairs, which was brought to my notice by Lieutenant Bennet, in the Report he drew up of his recent tour in the Vilayet of Sivas, a copy of which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship in my despatch No. 951 of the 29th October last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S.—I have also communicated substance of Consul Biliotti's despatch to the Greek Minister here.

D.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, November 24, 1881.*

I REPORTED in the latter part of my despatch No. 25 of the 7th August, 1880, that 100 Greek families from Niksar had sent delegates to Russia to make arrangements for settling in that country.

The number of these intended emigrants has since increased to 300 families, most of whom embarked last week at Ordoo on board the Russian mail-steamer bound to Batoum; want of room on board prevented the departure of the remainder, who are to depart this week for the same destination.

According to a letter which I have received from Batoum, it would seem that the authorities at that place, having had no timely information of the arrival of so many emigrants, had made no arrangement for their location, and that upwards of 1,000 souls were left to spend a very cold and rainy night in the open air.

I am told that it was heartrending to hear the cries of the children, five of whom died in the night, and the lamentations of the women, the husbands of several of whom had been left behind for want of room on board.

These emigrants proceed to Artwin and Ardahan, where the Russian Government offered them lands, and also, it would seem, pecuniary assistance at the rate of 130 roubles per emigrant.

The day after their arrival at Batoum they were embarked on board barges, to be conveyed by the Tchorook River as near as possible to their intended places of settlement.

I have had occasion to report that a Russian emigration agent was sent to Gumushané; though he returned some time since, the emigration continues. Other agents have been dispatched or appointed in six towns; and the Consul seems bent on promoting Christian, or rather Greek, exodus from Turkey to Russia on as large a scale as possible.

He quite recently returned himself from Kerassond, where, if I am rightly informed, intended emigrants, non-content with the assurances given to them by the agent, wished to confer with the Consul himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 213.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 12.)

E
(No. 1075.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 6, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which I have addressed to the Porte, asking to be admitted to an audience with the Sultan, and recapitulating the grounds upon which I make the demand.

As your Lordship is already aware, I have never omitted a suitable opportunity of pressing the consideration of the Armenian question, and especially the appointment of a High Commissioner, upon the attention both of the Sultan and of his Ministers, though

with regard to the former I have endeavoured to convey my representations through such channels and in such language as was least calculated to worry and annoy His Majesty.

The Sultan, in reply, has constantly sent me word that he was occupied night and day with the consideration of the reforms for Armenia, and that in a few days he would be in a position to make an announcement to me which could not fail to prove satisfactory. But week after week slips on, and nothing is done. In the meantime the state of the country is continually getting worse, and its inhabitants more disheartened.

I have taken the means to let the Sultan know that I was about to apply officially for an audience, and he has intimated to me through a friendly channel that he will be glad to see me. Though I propose at the pending interview to assume a very serious and earnest tone, I trust to be able, without diminishing the force of my remonstrances, to avoid giving offence. The great difficulty of my task consists in the absolute indifference of all the European Governments, and consequently of their Representatives, to the condition of Asia Minor. My colleagues, indeed, out of courtesy and complaisance, never refuse to do anything I ask them which may be calculated to attain the desired object, and I have no doubt that they have all loyally made the communications upon which we have agreed. But of course the Porte is very well aware that none of them are really in earnest, or give more than a passing thought to the subject.

Nevertheless, it is so obvious that the present state of affairs cannot continue that I am very far from despairing of getting the matter brought to something approaching a satisfactory conclusion, in spite of the discouraging circumstances to which I have referred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in 213.

The Earl of Dufferin to Assim Pasha.

Excellency, *Constantinople, December 3, 1881.*

IT will be in your Excellency's recollection that soon after my arrival at Constantinople on the 4th June last, by the orders of my Government, I called the attention of the Porte to the deplorable condition of the eastern districts of Asia Minor, and especially to the sufferings of the Armenian population.

Founding myself upon the well-considered Reports of Her Majesty's Consuls at Sivas, Van, and Diarbekir, I was enabled to exhibit to the Ottoman Government a succession of facts which proved that the region I referred to was a theatre of oppression, rapine, and bloodshed; that anarchy rather than law, was the prevailing characteristic; and that, through the absence of all pretence to a just government, life had become almost intolerable to its inhabitants.

I also reminded your Excellency that these evils were not confined to the Christian population, though they were undoubtedly the chief sufferers, but that the Mussulman subjects of His Majesty had almost equal cause of complaint.

In calling on the Porte to remedy a state of affairs so fraught with disaster, as stipulated for in the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, I was careful to explain that Her Majesty's Government did not press for any arrangements which could from any point of view be considered as detrimental to the prestige, the authority, or the interests of the Sultan; and I explained that all that was desired was security for person and property, a pure administration of justice, a humane and reasonable system of taxation, the admission of the Christians to such a share in the local administration of their affairs as their numbers entitled them to claim, and the institution of a well-organized and trustworthy police, in accordance with the principles set forth in the note of the Powers of the 7th September, 1880. At the same time, I urged that inasmuch as the elaboration of even the foregoing moderate scheme of reforms must of necessity require a certain amount of time and consideration, it would be advisable that a High Commissioner, intrusted with full powers, should be at once dispatched to the disorganized vilayets, as a temporary and provisional measure of alleviation.

From time to time I have recurred to the subject with your Excellency as well as with the Prime Minister, and renewed these representations in the most emphatic manner, and both your Excellency and his Highness have repeatedly acknowledged the applicability of my suggestions and the urgency of the case. I have reason to believe that the other representations of the Great Powers have also spoken in the same sense. Indeed, the

Russian Ambassador and myself waited on your Excellency together not very long ago, with the assent of our colleagues, and conjointly reiterated these recommendations.

On the three occasions I have been admitted to the presence of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan I also had the honour of submitting to him the same series of facts and observations, to which His Majesty deigned to listen in a very gracious manner. The last time I saw His Majesty he was even good enough to inform me that within a month he would nominate a High Commissioner for the eastern districts of his Asiatic dominions, to whom should be intrusted large powers, with a view to the amelioration of their deplorable condition.

I communicated the announcement of His Majesty's gracious intention both to Earl Granville and to my colleagues, and, at the instance of the Queen's Government, I conveyed to His Majesty their best thanks for this welcome intimation of his determination. I regret to say, however, that although eleven weeks have elapsed since the date of my audience, no High Commissioner has been appointed, nor has any other step been taken to remedy the crying evils which have been so continuously brought to the notice of the Ottoman Government. On the contrary, the state of things is going every day from bad to worse. The oppression of the people continues. Scarcely a post arrives without fresh outrages being reported. Villages are attacked with impunity by marauding bands. The roads are less secure than ever, and justice seems to be getting further and further beyond the reach of the wretched victims of all this misgovernment. Only two days ago authentic intelligence reached Constantinople of a Christian cathedral having been attacked and pillaged at Midiat, and of the Bishop having been subjected in open daylight to the grossest personal indignities at the hands of the ruffians who are thus allowed to plunder, ravish, and murder, with impunity.

Her Majesty's Government, taking into consideration the grave consequences which must ensue unless some remedy be found for this state of things, as well as prompted by those sentiments of humanity to which, under such circumstances, it is impossible to remain deaf, have instructed me to request an audience of His Majesty the Sultan, for the purpose of again calling His Majesty's attention to the crying evils I have portrayed, of reminding him of his promise, and of making a further communication.

However unwilling therefore I may be to intrude upon His Majesty's privacy, with the multiplicity of whose cares and preoccupations I am well acquainted, I have to request your Excellency to submit to His Imperial Majesty my respectful request to be admitted to a private audience for the foregoing purposes.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 214.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 12.)

(No. 1076.) *Constantinople, December* 6, 1881.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1049 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state that Mr. Dragoman Preziosi has been informed at the Sublime Porte that a copy of the *note verbale* from this Embassy, remonstrating against the release of Daoud Effendi, has been sent to the Vali of Aleppo, with a request for explanations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 215.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 12.)

(No. 1078. Very Confidential. Extender.) *Constantinople, December* 6, 1881.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that I have this morning received a very confidential message from Artin Effendi, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, to the effect that he knows as a fact that the Sultan and his *entourage* at the Palace are determined to do nothing about Armenian reforms until after His Majesty has received a communication from Reschid Bey, one of the emissaries sent to Berlin.

Reschid Bey, though quite a young man, is regarded with great favour by the Sultan,

and exercises a good deal of influence over His Majesty. The Diplomatic Body here regard him with favour, and consider him a high-minded and well-meaning person.

I am in hopes that, if we can induce Germany to join with us in honestly and heartily pressing the appointment of a High Commissioner upon the Sultan, His Majesty will yield.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 216.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 12.)

(No. 1081.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 6, 1881.

I AM sorry to say that the dispute between the Catholicos of Sis and the Armenian Patriarch has again broken out, in spite of the Catholicos having signed the heads of the agreement which I transmitted to your Lordship by last mail, and of the religious service at which the two dignitaries conjointly officiated in order to celebrate their reconciliation.

It appears that when the final Act of Settlement was submitted to the Catholicos, though drawn in conformity with the Protocol he had already signed, he refused to execute it.

This event has been followed by the resignation of the Patriarch, though I have not yet learned that his resignation has been accepted by the Porte. Mgr. Nercès has probably been induced to take this step by several considerations. He has been recently attacked with considerable acrimony by the party opposed to him in the General Assembly. He knows that he is regarded with disfavour both by the Sultan and by the Prime Minister, who have further mortified him by the bestowal of an Order and other favours upon the Catholicos of Sis. It is also alleged in the newspapers that he has been discouraged by the little progress made in the settlement of the Armenian question. His health, moreover, is bad, as he suffers from Bright's disease.

What effect his resignation may have on the prospects of the Armenian community it would be difficult to say. The ostentatious way in which Mgr. Nercès was constantly appealing to the foreign Ambassadors undoubtedly excited the fear and anger of the Porte, and it is quite possible that a successor who has not rendered himself obnoxious by similar proceedings may eventually acquire both for himself and his rite a better position with the Turkish authorities. Even so, however, it must be always remembered that it is through Mgr. Nercès' fearless advocacy of it at Berlin and elsewhere that the Armenian cause has been advanced to its present stage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 217.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 12.)

(No. 462. Extender.) *Berlin, December* 8, 1881.
My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of last night, I told the Minister for Foreign Affairs that information had reached Her Majesty's Government from Constantinople to the effect that the Sultan would do nothing about Armenia until after the return to Constantinople of the Special Embassy of Mushir Ali Nizami and Reschid Bey, the bearers of the Order of the Nischani Iftihar to the Emperor William. Reschid Bey, I said, was believed to have great influence with the Sultan, and if, under present circumstances, Count Hatzfeldt would avail himself of his presence to speak to him on the subject, and join with Her Majesty's Government in pushing the Armenian question, the Sultan might yield at last and send a Governor-General with full powers to improve the condition of the Armenians.

Count Hatzfeldt replied that he would willingly do so when he took leave of the Sultan's emissaries, but that they had hitherto when he saw them not entered upon any political topics, and had confined their remarks and queries chiefly to the immediate

objects of their mission to Berlin, which was to present the Nischani Imtiaz to the German Emperor.

He had already, as he had told me on a former occasion, intimated to the Porte that the German Government fully approved of the recommendations in regard to Armenia agreed upon by the Ambassadors at Constantinople and gave them a cordial support, and he would not fail to renew these assurances if the Sultan's emissaries gave him an opportunity of doing so before they left Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 218.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 463. Secret.)
My Lord,

Berlin, December 8, 1881.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I was told by Count Hatzfeldt, privately and in confidence, that neither Ali Nizami Pasha nor Reschid Bey seemed to be charged with any political mission, nor did they appear to know much of what was doing in Constantinople.

In reply to a query of his, Reschid Bey had said that the Sultan was having instructions drawn up by Moukhtar Pasha, who would probably be sent as Governor-General to Armenia, but Ali Nizami Pasha interrupted his colleague to observe that he did not think Moukhtar Pasha would be appointed, since the English Government were pressing the Porte to appoint Hobart Pasha to Armenia.

Count Hatzfeldt observed to me that the Pasha knew little of the intentions of the Sultan, who was determined to have his own way and be master in his own Palace, and that he resisted for that reason the pressure of the Powers, so as not to appear to yield to foreign influence, and show that he would take his own time to carry out his own policy.

Count Hatzfeldt said he did not think the Sultan would send Moukhtar Pasha a day sooner to Armenia than suited his own convenience, and that while at Constantinople he had noticed that pressure appeared to increase the tendency to procrastination the Sultan was naturally inclined to indulge in, like most of his race.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 219.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 821.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 15, 1881.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1059, Confidential, of the 28th ultimo, relative to the delay in the appointment of a High Commissioner for the Eastern Provinces of Asia Minor inhabited by Armenians, I have to express to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government at your successive endeavours to press this matter upon the attention of the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 220.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 1085.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 10, 1881.

THE rumour that Russia was demanding the revenues of Erzeroum as a guarantee for the payment of the war indemnity has suggested an article in the "Massis," the most widely circulated Armenian journal here, of which I have the honour to transmit a translation.

Your Lordship will observe that the "Massis" is not in favour of Russian influence being extended among the Armenian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S.—The concluding paragraphs of the article show the kind of people with whom we have to deal in this place.

D.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of December 12, 1881.

THE ARMENIANS AND RUSSIA.—The report current lately respecting the demand made by Russia to have the revenues of the Vilayet of Erzeroum made over to her as a guarantee for the payment of the war indemnity has suggested the following remarks to the "Massis," a journal which has the largest circulation amongst the Armenians:—

"We are happy to think that there has been no confirmation of the report that Russia had demanded a portion of Turkish Armenia in compensation for the war indemnity, or that there was a question of giving over to her the financial portion of the administration of that country, in order to repay little by little the millions of the indemnity. A Turkish journal, on the contrary, gave a formal denial yesterday of the authenticity of these reports, and though in such matters the contradiction of a Turkish journal cannot carry much weight, it yet serves to tranquillize our fears until we have learned from a more reliable source that Russian diplomatists never seriously entertained such an idea.

"The reasons for the uneasiness, which the possibility of such a combination excites amongst us, are too well-known to require our dwelling upon them at any length. If the question of the war indemnity is to be settled by the cession to Russia, under what name soever it may be, of any portion of the Armenian provinces, the event would be regarded with the deepest grief by all Armenians who take an intelligent and clear-sighted view of the matter, for this reason, that the Armenians, though they have no political aspirations, attach great importance to the preservation of their nationality. After having existed for the respectable period of 4,000 years, during 2,500 years of which they can lay claim to an authentic history of their own, the members of the Armenian people feel drawn together like those of one family; and now, when there exists in these present times a greater disposition to recognize the rights of nations and of individuals, the Armenians believe it to be their duty to keep intact the ties which, in spite of great disasters, have held them united for so many centuries as a distinct nation. Their language, their religion, their fatherland constitute these ties. The Armenian feeling on this point is perfectly free from danger, and a better illustration could not be given of the harmlessness of their views than by comparing them to those of the Jews, who also endeavour in so praiseworthy a manner to preserve their nationality; and yet no one has thought of taxing them with entertaining political aspirations.

"But the Armenians are grieved to see that under the Russian rule no guarantees exist of their being able to preserve these ties for any length of time. In Turkey, although the 'Ottoman nationality' is the sole nationality, and although Turkey remains the mother country, the small nations which it includes enjoy a tolerance for which they should be thankful, and which permits them to preserve their own individuality, whilst forming component parts of a whole, like the different shades of one colour. It is thus that the Albanian, Greek, Jewish, Arab, and Kurdish nationalities exist here without interfering with the unity and integrity of the Ottoman Empire. The Sovereigns of Turkey have not, like those of a neighbouring country, entertained the disagreeable idea of unifying the several small nationalities; and for that very reason they have called forth in return the gratitude and the moral support of those nations, instead of the disturbance and alienation which a contrary course would have engendered. We see with satisfaction that to this day the Imperial Government follows the same line of policy; but we cannot say as much for Russia.

"It is true that of late the Russian Government has conducted itself in a more indulgent manner towards the Armenians of the Caucasus, and that it has granted them important privileges in the matter of schools, churches, literature, and right of public assembly. We might even say that since the late war the condition of the Armenian Russian subjects has become sensibly ameliorated. But, on the other hand, any farseeing Armenian has no difficulty in feeling that all this is but a passing favour, granted only to

dazzle the imagination of the Armenian Turkish subjects. Thus, the Armenians always fear that, in passing under the Russian rule, their nationality may be imperilled, above all in their present condition, in which the majority of the Armenian population finds itself still deprived of the advantages of solid instruction, which might serve it as a shield against foreign influences.

"The Armenians are still of opinion that if up to the present Russia has not put in operation a stronger attempt to break the ties of nationality which bind together its Armenian subjects, her object is probably not to alarm the Armenians who live on the right bank of the Araxes; for, entertaining ulterior views regarding this portion of Armenia, it is easy to understand that she does not wish beforehand to render the Christian inhabitants of these provinces indifferent or indisposed to her interests. But if the whole of Armenia were to pass under her domination, would the same precaution still be observed? Would not Russia then pursue openly her policy of assimilation? Will this Ignatieff, who formerly adopted such severe measures, and issued such rigorous and stringent Decrees against those Russo-Germanic provinces under the very nose of Germany, against the provinces of Finland adjoining Sweden, as well as against the unfortunate Poles, in the firm resolve to suppress their language and their nationality, and to Russianize them entirely, will he treat in a more humane manner the defenceless and unsupported Armenian nation, when once his ambition of seeing it wholly under his authority has been gratified? To give a more recent instance, will the Empire which has destroyed the foundation of the Georgian nation—those Georgians who now find themselves under her rule, whose numbers are at least equal, and whose historical souvenirs of their might exceed those of all the Armenians—will it spare the Armenians?

"So long as an important portion of Armenia remains under the Ottoman Empire it forms a living protest against the Machiavelian policy of Russianizing the Armenians of the Caucasus and of Russian Armenia. But let this obstacle once disappear, and the provinces of Turkish Armenia go to swell the Asiatic possessions of Russia. Is it not certain that from that day forth the statesmen of St. Petersburgh will play a bolder game? Is it not certain that in that hour the Armenian nation will receive its death-blow? These considerations and others of a similar nature make the Armenians of Turkey disinclined to pass under the dominion of Russia. But apart from these considerations, which are purely national, there are others again, relating to their material position, which, in the minds of the Armenians, point to the same conclusions.

"In a material point of view, there is no doubt that the Armenians of Russian Armenia enjoy a better position as compared with that of their brethren in Turkish Armenia. It is a fact also that whereas the number of Armenians in this latter portion of Armenia decreases every day, the number of those under Russia has increased in a remarkable degree; not so much by reason of immigration, but owing to the prosperous conditions under which they live. It remains, however, to be seen whether the provinces of Turkish Armenia would be greatly benefited by the whole of Armenia becoming united under Russian rule. When once Russia has succeeded in annexing the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, will she make any change in the vexatious condition of these districts which is the cause of all the evils under which the Armenians suffer? Can it be hoped that Russia will introduce effectual modifications in the actual state of things, calculated to protect the interests of the Armenian portion of the inhabitants of the country? Certain facts, only too well known, clearly demonstrate the unwillingness of the Government of St. Petersburgh to consent to any changes which might in any way whatever strengthen the Armenian people subject to its rule. When the Armenians of the Province of Alexandropol and of the neighbouring districts, having need of more land, requested permission to be allowed to settle in the province of Kars, the Russian Government disregarded their demand, and preferred instead to give away to foreign immigrants, as a gift, the very lands which the Armenians had proposed to purchase with their savings. The refusal of the Government, though given under the plea of administrative necessity, was none the less markedly tinged with political colouring, and was a sacrifice imposed on the native inhabitants of the country. The Russian functionaries at Tiflis, deriving their inspirations from St. Petersburgh, did not desire that the Armenians should increase in numbers and strength in the border provinces, and sacrificed the just rights of the Armenian villagers to illusory considerations of an uncertain future. Moreover, Russia does not receive Armenian emigrants into the provinces lately annexed, whereas she grants every facility to those wishing to settle in Turkey. She repels the Gregorian Armenians, who it is thought might entertain national aspirations, whereas she welcomes with open arms the Roman Catholic Armenians and the Greeks inhabiting Turkish Armenia. These facts, well authenticated as they are, prove beyond a doubt that, even with a view to their material prosperity and economic state, Russia is not much disposed to favour the Armenians, lest

she should thereby forward the views of the Armenian nation. Doubtless the Russian police is very severe, and it is probable that if the Province of Erzeroum and some of the other Armenian provinces were to fall into the hands of the Empire of the North, brigandage would be repressed; but Russian policy is also very severe, and for the present there is no hope that it will assist in bringing about a radical change in the actual condition of the Armenian inhabitants of the said provinces.

"It is, therefore, prudent to restrain within moderate limits our hopes of the advantages to be derived from a Russian occupation—from which God save us! These reflections, we might say these fears, are shared in by every Armenian who loves his nation. The Armenians are, and ever will remain, sincerely attached to their country, as well in crying with persistency for reforms in Turkish Armenia, as in repelling with horror the idea of a Russian occupation. But considerations of such a delicate nature can have but little weight amongst the people—more especially among the great majority of the inhabitants of the Armenian provinces—for these people look only to the present and the immediate future, and the hope of being freed from a state of things which gives rise to complaint may cause those things to appear to them favourable which are in reality just the reverse.

"In laying before the Imperial Government, with all due respect, this sad state of affairs, we implore of it a greater solicitude for the immediate realization of those reforms which are recognized as being necessary, in order that the inhabitants of those localities may feel, as we do, that their best interests consist in remaining under the protection of the Ottoman Throne.

"When we speak of the double question—the Russian occupation of Armenia, and reforms in the Armenian provinces—it is impossible to forget the English policy which formerly gave great, we might say a vital, importance to questions of this sort, simply from the fact that they concerned the future of Turkey in Asia; but for some time back, thanks to the neutral and careless policy of the Gladstone Cabinet, it seems to have considerably lost weight and influence in Eastern affairs in general, and in those of Turkey in Asia in particular. Not one of those principles, to which, but a few years ago, English statesmen attached so much importance, has been carried out. Those Liberals who so freely blamed the Cabinet of Lord Beaconsfield for its want of success in the Eastern question have had even less, since they have signally failed on those very points concerning which they pledged themselves before coming into power. It is in their day of power that we learn a piece of news that would have been considered impossible in the time of their predecessors, but which now seems incredible to very few. Turkish Armenia to fall into the hands of Russia! and that, in compensation for a war indemnity! Such a piece of news would have been enough to shake the Court of St. James to its base, and next day we should have heard the Beaconfields, the Salisburys, the Gathorne Hardys electrify the Houses of Parliament at Westminster with their vigorous protestations. But it appears to be the gift of the Liberals to remain impassible spectators of the gradual loss of prestige and the high reputation of England in the East, whilst at Constantinople British Ambassadors succeed and resemble each other, if not in their ideas, at least in the results which they obtain."

No. 221.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 1080.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Bennet, reporting his arrival at Adana from Sivas, and containing remarks on the populations and political condition of the intervening country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Lieutenant Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 22.) *Adana, November* 30, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I left Sivas on the 28th October, and reached Adana on the 14th November. I travelled by way of Gorun, which I reached in three days. The intervening country from Sivas is uninteresting in the extreme, a high, desolate, thinly-populated, hilly, rather than mountainous, region, with very little water, soil stony and poor, inhabitants Turks, Armenians, and Kurds. Two days out from Sivas I stopped at Manjuluk, an Armenian agricultural village of 100 houses, and the seat of a Bishop, yet I was surprised to find they had no school. There has been a split, it appears; the old Bishop, who had reigned forty years, and who took no interest in education, had been replaced by a man from Zeitoun, whom the people would not recognize because he had been appointed by the Catholicos of Sis and not by the Patriarch. The new man was reported to be progressive, but the Elders of the village would not assist him. Gorun is pleasantly situated in a deep valley, down which the town struggles for several miles. The surrounding hills are of crumbling slate, destitute of vegetation, but the narrow valley is well watered, and abounds in fruit trees and gardens. The Kaïmakam, a Cretan, seemed an intelligent man, spoke French, and has a good reputation. The population of this caza consists of Turks, Armenians, and Kurds, the Christians claiming to be in a majority if the Kizil-bash Kurds were not counted.

From Gorun I reached Evsus, or Yarpuz, four hours west of Albistan, in two stages, the first over the mountains, and the last across the Albistan Plain. One cannot but be struck, on crossing this plain, by the small amount of cultivation there is on it. The soil, though strong in places, seems good, and wherever irrigation is employed crops do very well, but they say that without it they fail. The plain is well watered, and I think could be irrigated, at comparatively slight cost, to a much greater extent. The climate is said to be very good: cold winters, and no excessive heat in summer. It seems a pity that such a wide extent of land should not be utilized for refugees, and I am sure it would be well worth while to send an Engineer to report on the question of irrigating it.

Evsus, or Yarpuz (ancient Arabissus), was formerly a very large town, as is evident by the quantity and extent of the ruins surrounding the now miserable village of 300 houses, 200 of which are Moslem and 100 Armenian, living in a separate quarter. It is the seat of a Mudir. The Turks and Armenians here, as elsewhere, were loud in their complaints against the existing Government. The land is at present in the hands of the Turks, the Armenians not having been there as yet long enough to acquire it. They are shopkeepers, artizans, pedlars, &c. Near Evsus is a curious marble cave in the mountains, which, with other places, shares the honours of being the resting-place of the Seven Sleepers. An old mosque has been built over the cave, and there is a place of sepulture adjacent, and an old khan. The place is a great resort by Moslems for superstitious reasons, the water in the cave containing healing qualities, &c.

Being in the neighbourhood, I inquired how matters were going at Marash. I heard that the Zeitounlis were going on as usual, paying no taxes, and resorting to their old habits of highway robbing. There had been no change of officials there or at Marash. The Mutessarif was said to be out in the district, with troops, after some Kurds, and the Kaïmakam of Zeitoun had gone off with troops, also to collect conscripts. I also heard that troops had been sent against the Kurds in the Malatia district in the Alaja Dagh, whose conduct I reported on in my No. 15. There had been no further disturbance between the Gyuksunlis and Circassians, and the people who were arrested in May were still in prison at Marash, the Mudir and Cadi of Gyuksun having been added to their numbers. The preliminary examination was still proceeding.

From Evsus I followed the araba road from Albistan to Kaisarieh, through the Anti-Taurus. The route crosses two ranges of mountains, the Saris Valley intervening. The road is tolerably easy, but attains an altitude of close on 7,500 feet just before reaching the valley, and about the same height the other side, and is blocked by snow for about five months in the year; the first fall occurred as I crossed. The high lands on the Albistan side are inhabited chiefly by Kurds, and the Saris Valley and district beyond by Avshars. The Kurds are agricultural, and complained of depredations by Circassians and Avshars; they are very poor. The Avshars came originally from

Khorassan about 600 years ago, and, until the last eighteen years, lived in tents and wandered about. Abdur Rahman Pasha settled them in the Saris Valley and along by the Samanti River below Azizieh, and they seem to have taken kindly to agriculture; they possess also numerous flocks and herds, which they send in winter to the Tchubur Ova, and in summer to their own zailas near by. They complained much that the new refugees had been settled on their grass lands, and generally of the Circassians rendering the district unsettled. A great battle was fought between these two tribes when the Circassians first came. Complaints against Circassians are universal from all classes and sects, and there can be no doubt that their advent has hastened the ruin of this unfortunate country. The Avshars have no schools or mosques, or very few; they number about 1,000 houses, I believe. I was glad to find them building large detached farm-houses in the Saris Valley, and the land there is good.

From the Samanti River I struck south through the mountains to Hadjin in two days. Just on the borders of the Adana and Sivas Vilayets I stopped at an Avshar village, Elimenli, belonging to the Azizieh Caza; these people complained that six years ago the best of their land, distant half-an-hour from the village, for which they had paid the Government 920 piastres, had been taken from them and given to Circassians who had been been settled two hours off in Adana soil; the Circassians had never cultivated it, and the Avshars declared that they could not get on without it. But many such injustices are constantly occurring.

One hour out of Hadjin I met a man and woman who had just been robbed of about £ T. 30; the woman was dishevelled and bleeding, and they seemed in great distress; the following morning I found the Kaïmakam knew nothing of the occurrence, but I believe the robbers were captured. Since I left Hadjin in July, the Vekil who was there had been replaced by a new Kaïmakam from Constantinople, Izzet Bey, who remained about three months and outraged the feelings of the Hadjinlis by his violence; he seems to have kicked his Secretary down stairs, borrowed money without repaying it, and to have violently beaten an old man in the streets whose grape-basket blew over and frightened his horse. The Hadjinlis, having assumed an attitude of sullen discontent, did not report these things officially, but it came to the ears of the authorities, and he was removed, and there is now a Vekil there. The Christians who were ordered to Adana were kept there under open arrest all the hot weather, and then permitted to return, no charge being brought against them. A Protestant was good enough to say that this was a piece of spite on the part of the Vali, due to my having represented their condition, of which I was informed by them in a letter (*vide* my Nos. 11 and 16). I have a very poor opinion of the Hadjinlis; they are at sixes and sevens among themselves, are always gambling, and the condition of their town is a disgrace to the civilization even of this country; but they have been very unfortunate in their Kaïmakams certainly, and during the year have had three, with as many Vekils.

From Hadjin I went to Sis by the Tapan-Déré, a district inhabited by Farsaks, a race of Turks who came from Arabia. There are also some Armenians in the mountains hereabouts. The soil is not bad, but water is scarce, and the people are contented enough; they live in scattered houses.

At Sis I found a new Mutessarif, Reshad Pasha having been removed for no ostensible cause. He belonged to the Young Turk party, and now remains in Adana in exile. He has been replaced at Sis by Tefik Pasha, who was formerly at Marash and Urfa, and seems an educated man, and I do not think he will do much harm or good. Nearly all the officials of the sandjak had been changed in six months, and the Cadi was an Arab who barely understood Turkish.

From Sis I struck west into the mountains again to the Kursanli Nahié; this is a very large district north of Adana, all mountainous. There are about forty small Turkish villages and one Greek, where the Mudir resides. The approach from Sis is very difficult. The mountains are covered with fallen rocks, and the people have often to dig their land, ploughing being impossible. The Greeks especially are very poor; formerly they lived by iron smelting, but now this is stopped, and I am afraid the Greeks will be driven out of their homes. Iron, copper, coal, and silver-lead abound, but I was unable to spare the time to visit the localities. On my way to Adana I passed a coal bed, from which coal has been extracted, and used in Adana, but the distance was too great to admit of success. The coal is very friable, but glistering, and would no doubt improve at a greater depth. The field lies six hours from the Samanti River, a gentle slope down all the way, and no great difficulty for a road, and it could then be transported to Adana in small quantities by the wood rafts which are constantly coming.

On reaching Adana, on the 14th November, I found the Vali absent, and, being unable to get a house for a few days, I left for Tarsus and Mersina, where I met Mr. Consul Henderson and his Excellency Abédine Pasha, the Vali, who was on his way to Selefkia. From what I have heard, his Excellency is not going on so well as I hoped he would. He is easily influenced first one way and then another, acts hastily and without full inquiry, and tries to keep on good terms with all parties. His *entourage* is also bad. He has acquired a lot of land on the Adana Plain, and is devoting himself to agricultural problems a good deal. The rage at present is for agricultural implements, and 37,000 fr. have been expended by the Agricultural Bank on steam engines, ploughs, and a threshing machine, but I shall write more fully on the affairs of Adana later on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 222.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 1094.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 12, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1070 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti giving further details as to the sufferings of Greek immigrants at Batoum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 68.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, December* 3, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the information received from Batoum, that the Greek emigrants were to be conveyed at once to their places of destination, was premature, as they are still in that town, and in very unhappy circumstances.

I have already informed your Lordship that they had to spend the night of their arrival in the open air. It seems that, though there were empty barracks, no shelter was offered them, even on the following days, and that the inhabitants of Batoum, the Greeks especially, located as many of them as it was possible in their own dwellings. Lately, however, the use of the old Turkish hospital was granted to them by the Russian authorities.

They have received no rations, and still seem to depend on public charity, which, with the scanty population of Batoum, can hardly provide for the maintenance of about 2,000 men, women, and children, whose sufferings must therefore increase from day to day.

It is now said that, owing to the advanced season, their removal to inland districts cannot take place this year, though the Russian Consul at Trebizond states that the delay which took place was caused by the members of some families having remained behind at Ordoo, and that now nothing will retard the departure of the emigrants for their places of destination.

It would seem that the Ottoman Consul at Batoum, who is a Mussulman (and whose wife subscribed 20*l.* in favour of the Christian emigrants, while one of the principal Greek merchants of Trebizond, who happened to be at Batoum, offered 20 copecks—sixpence), moved by the miserable condition of the poor wretches, and knowing that his Government would not allow them to return to Turkey, advised them to proceed to Greece.

I cannot vouch for the truth of this report, but I have seen letters addressed to the Greek Consul, entreating him to beg his Government to furnish them the means to proceed to Greece. Having no cypher, and not considering it advisable to wire *en clair*, the Consul addressed Reports to his Embassy at Constantinople and to his Government.

About fifty families at Ordoo, which had not yet embarked, having sent here a delegate to see what could be done for them, the Greek Consul advised him to postpone

taking any decision until he heard from his Government; and I understand that 500 Greek families from Sivas are soon expected to arrive at Samsoun.

I have just heard from the Greek Archbishop that forty families, which about a month ago had removed to Batoum, returned last week to Ordoo, and that they were locked up in a han until they could be re-embarked for Russia, the orders of the Porte being not to readmit Christian emigrants in Turkey.

A month since forty Armenian families, and, quite recently, six others, which had likewise emigrated to Russia, having come back to Surmeneh and Ordoo, from whence they had respectively removed, and the authorities having shut their eyes on their return, in order to save them from further misery, the Greek Archbishop has begged that his co-religionists should be treated according to those precedents. No answer having yet been received from the Kaïmakam of Ordoo, on whose good-will their readmission depends, their fate is uncertain.

Forty-six emigrants who, a month ago, had taken passage on board a coasting craft bound to Russia, having been wrecked in the vicinity of Tireboli, were sent back to Samsoun, where they had embarked, as, their papers having been lost in the shipwreck, they could not prove that they had paid their taxes before departing.

The situation can be summed up as follows:—

There is among Greeks in Anatolia a strong current of emigration that nothing seems likely to arrest.

The Turkish Government does not prevent the departure of emigrants, but opposes their return.

The exodus is encouraged by Russian agents, while the authorities of the Caucasus do not pay much heed to the most essential wants of emigrants when they reach Russian soil.

Most of them return to Turkey, where, if they are admitted, they find themselves without the means to start again in life, all their resources having been expended in travelling. But if they are compelled to return to a country respecting which they had illusions dispelled by experience, their position is that of exiles.

Greece is a new field of emigration where Greeks, who abandon Turkey, may receive more congenial treatment than in Russia.

The Greek Government is willing to attract them there, and the present moment is most opportune for so doing.

The question, besides its political opportunity for Greece, involves a momentous general principle of humanity.

The Porte, with the utmost ill-will against Greece, could put forward no plausible pretext for preventing, at all events, the removal to that country of the emigrants now at Batoum, and of those locked up at Ordoo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 223.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 1096.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, an interesting Report which has been drawn up for me by Colonel Norton of the gendarmerie on an armed police for Armenia.

In spite of many difficulties, and after having encountered considerable hardship, Colonel Norton succeeded in traversing a large portion of Kurdistan, which had hitherto remained inaccessible to Europeans, and even to the Turkish authorities. I have reason to believe that while in the country Colonel Norton rendered excellent service to the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Colonel Norton to the Earl of Dufferin.

Pera, November 20, 1881.

My Lord,

IT having pleased your Excellency to honour me by expressing your desire to consider any feasible scheme that might reform and remedy the present state of affairs existing in Armenia, I take this opportunity to state my decided opinion, founded on recent experience as the Inspector of a—so-called—gendarmerie in a lawless district of that country, which is to the effect that the organization and careful handling of a body of armed police must precede any attempt to purify the law, or to carry out a just system of taxation in that part of the Sultan's dominions where the Armenians are located in the midst of Kurman and Laza Kurds.

In these districts, which I will specify as Kurdish-Armenia, the law is almost inoperative, being without executive power, and the tribal Kurds are strong enough to resist the payment of their share of the taxes levied on the provinces where they exist; thus the peaceful agriculturists, who are nearly always Armenian Christians, are generally called upon to make up the deficit in the revenue.

It is sufficiently obvious that the introduction of a good element, such as gendarmerie, under officers independent of local official patronage, into the impure and corrupted body of functionaries that fill up every Governmental Department in the provinces without exception, and by special discipline keeping it uncontaminated from its immediate surrounding, must in a short time produce a strong and wholesome effect, and, if persevered in, might ultimately clear the way to great reforms.

It is to this end I have prepared the simple scheme I now lay before your Excellency in a manner that I trust will meet with your approval. I fear, however, that, under existing circumstances, there will be difficulty in obtaining for it a fair trial.

With regard to the beneficial results which I anticipate might be produced if the country I allude to were for a time put under a system that would practically amount to gendarmerie sway, I may mention that when Lord Dalhousie introduced his armed police organization into British India the English magistrates and collectors complained that, although the country was orderly and tranquil, nearly all authority and power had been taken out of their hands, owing to the tendency of Oriental minds to submit to the armed agents of the law as the visible authority of the Government.

The above considerations inspire me with the hope that the creation of a good gendarmerie would act as a wedge to split asunder and break up the grand obstacle to all reforms in this country, which, as your Excellency is well aware of, arises from the insurmountable barrier opposed to them by the Government officials. These have at length become a solid bureaucratic formation, so knit together by mutual interest, and, as a tax-collecting machine, so useful to a lethargic Government, that its strength is more likely to yield before the gradual process of undermining than fall to pieces by attempts made to enforce the law with its present weak Executive.

From the Supreme Authority in the Empire a signal might, indeed, be given that future maladministration in the provinces would be checked by punishment, but it is doubtful if it could be attended to, seeing that there is hardly one official of sufficiently untarnished reputation who would not feel that, in passing sentence upon others, he was virtually condemning himself. So well organized is this bureaucratic autocracy, that every member of it is crushed who endeavours to act with honesty and justice. However deep may be the religious feeling in the heart of a Mussulman Government official—and Islam enjoins faith, honesty, and justice on its followers—he must do as the others do, or find himself disgraced for striving to be honourable, or reduced to poverty for trying to be just.

There is no doubt that, if a new Governor were appointed with the strongest desire to reform his vilayet and to govern it up rightly, he would soon find himself in the power of his "Medjliss," a body who carefully guard against a white sheep in their black flock. This Administrative Council, originally designed to protect the people from the despotism of an individual, as well as to give Christians a voice in affairs relating to themselves, has now become an organized conspiracy to prevent an honestly-disposed Ruler from having anything more than the mere wish to do good. Thus, a clique who all have a share in the spoil of the people, is substituted for the possible avaricious tyranny of one man.

Yet in this league, hauled together to prey upon the Commonwealth—an organization that developed itself from a hurried and mistaken manner of forcing Western civilization and ideas upon an Oriental people—there are, indeed, many individuals of sound principles and capable of better things who would be glad to break the bonds that compel them daily to act adversely to their consciences, and to outrage the principles of humanity. Such

persons have often told me they would be glad if the order was given from a high quarter to attack this iniquitous system of carrying on the government of the country, by putting the laws of the new Penal Code in force against bribery and corruption. They seemed to be of the opinion that, were notice taken of a few flagrant cases and adequate punishment inflicted, a very few examples would suffice to establish respect for the Law, and order throughout the Ottoman Empire; but they admitted how hopeless it would be to expect that they themselves could be made to carry out a sentence for their own condemnation; implying that they would wish for foreign interference in this matter.

When I attempted to organize the gendarmerie of Bitlis, I failed through the impossibility of selecting good officers. Promotion depended on bribery, and not a man could be enlisted unless he signed away some months of his pay in advance to those who engaged him!

Although affairs were somewhat complicated with the question of religion, the state of the country about me was not so bad, though in many respects much resembling that of France at the close of the sixteenth century, when the peasants abandoned their villages to flock to the towns, and all industry was at a standstill from the numerous bands of robbers that infested the provinces. History points out how speedily, by the vigorous measures of Henri Quatre, the people were rendered happy, prosperous, and contented. This could not have been so easily effected if that energetic monarch had not had at his command a disciplined force, under honest and capable officers; it is for this reason that the organization of an efficient gendarmerie force is a first necessity in that country, where, as is shown by some communications I made to your Excellency, I met with every obstruction in my endeavours to create one, from those officials who foresaw in my success the loss of profit they derived, by allowing the villages to remain exposed to Kurdish depredation, and the roads to be infested with banditti.

The authorities responsible for this state of things were always stoutly prepared to deny that they existed. Occasionally, some proof of it was obtained through the representations of our Consuls, and the Porte would call upon a Vali or a Mutessarif for some explanation. Such an official, on good terms with his subordinates, could always send in a "mazbata" signed by them to testify that the country was never before in such a flourishing state, as evinced by the increased revenue exacted from it, and that this was due to the excellent rule of the capable officer that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan had in his wisdom selected to put over them. Sometimes the complaint was too well founded to be veiled, hushed up, or denied; then the document would go on to state that the affair in question was grossly exaggerated owing to the well-known want of truth observable in all those persons who made complaints to European Consuls, that these evil reports were the work of those who wished evil to the State, but that the matter would be investigated and justice duly administered.

The receipt of such a document by the Minister of the Interior for transmission to the Porte generally stifled all further inquiry, unless followed up by our Consuls, and if it was a case such as the plundering and burning of a village containing some humble and inoffensive cultivators of the soil, in which a few lives were lost, a small body of regulars would be dispatched to remonstrate with the Kurd Agha or Bey whose tribe had committed the outrage, and the military commander generally made some arrangements which enabled him to send in a report that all was satisfactorily settled. Sometimes, however, the Kurdish Chief did not care to purchase exemption by paying the heavy bribes that were necessary to condone a case of such magnitude, for his crimes had seen the light from a European point of view; so a combat would take place and a Kurdish village or two be burnt in retaliation by the soldiers, who would drive away some cattle, which, however, would never be sold to benefit the sufferers by the Kurdish outrage.

In an affair with the Rascotan Kurds that occurred before my arrival, the mounted gendarmerie of Sert assisted the regulars; there was much loss of life, and they behaved with gallantry, but no gendarme who lost his horse in action could claim compensation; if wounded, he received no surgical aid; the disabled were discharged without pension, and, sad to state, if a man was killed in the act of doing his duty, his wife and family would be left to beg their bread.

My informant, a captain in the battalion I was endeavouring to reorganize, a very straightforward man, who had been wounded and had lost his horse in the engagement, added, "Under these circumstances, how can you expect that our men should be willing to fight; yet I can answer for their courage, and if better taken care of they would be more than a match for the tribal ('Kelchir') Kurds, without the aid of the regulars."

I myself doubt if the Governor of a province would care to have the assistance of an efficient body of gendarmerie to aid him in keeping the peace unless, indeed, the force in

question were removed from the control of the Seraskariat and placed completely at his disposal for good or evil.

The Gendarmerie Commandant has no seat at the Council Board ("Medjliss"), and may or may not fall in with the views of the despotic civilian clique who compose it; already I have noticed some friction with the authorities, owing to the independence of the police, which has been productive of some good to the people, and this was the more remarkable, as the gendarmerie in question had been formed out of the only material at hand, namely, the officers and men of the old corrupt and debased zaptieh force; but it can be explained by the fact, that their head was an officer duly appointed to the brigade command by the War Office who still belonged to the regular army, and the fact of his being able to report through the English Brigade Inspector to the Gendarmerie Bureau at the Seraskariat was viewed with jealousy by the officials, who with true Oriental talent for intrigue immediately set to work to have the officers appointed only through their own patronage. All such attempts on their part in the vilayet where I was inspector were vigorously resisted by me.

We can now see the successful result of their schemes, and I fear it will produce disastrous results on the well-being of all the industrious cultivators of the soil, by the order which has recently been issued by his Excellency Ghazee Osman Pasha, who now limits the War Office nomination to the selection of an officer to command the gendarmerie brigade of a vilayet. Formerly, all officers from the rank of subaltern upwards received their appointments from the Gendarmerie Commission sitting at the Seraskariat; the subalterns being selected by a Sub-Commission supposed to exist at the chef-lieu of each vilayet; the Sub-Commission was a farce, and if it existed was under local influence, but to it is now relegated the important patronage of choosing a battalion chief, and I am well aware of what mischief might be caused by the selection to such a post of one who could spread his malign influence over so large a district as a sandjak for instance. For however good and capable might be the officer who held the chief gendarmerie command in the vilayet, his authority is liable to be neutralized by unworthy subordinates, backed up by unscrupulous Government officials, and it must be remembered that at present there is no English gendarmerie official stationed anywhere in Armenia to report official abuse of power.

I may here take the opportunity to mention that, when I was the Inspector of Gendarmerie in Bitlis, a high official took occasion to hint in a friendly way that it was out of the question to suppose that I could secure any advancement for myself if I continued to act against the authorities: he advised me to conform a little more to the official system, or, in other words, to pursue a course of lethargic non-interference. If I followed his recommendation, he assured me I would not fail to obtain promotion and reward.

I therefore strongly advocate in my gendarmerie scheme that all those English officers who take part in it may be selected from the commissioned ranks of Her Majesty's army, and lent by our Government to the Sultan for a limited time and a special purpose. To be of real use they must be men with a reputation to keep up in their own profession, and not officials entirely under Ottoman control.

The gendarmerie service does not so much require from these officers mere military disciplinary duty. To make it succeed in the important object in view there must be political weight behind these individuals, so as to push reforms on a Government loth to accept them. It cannot be advisable for the prestige of my country to allow an English gentleman ever for the future to be placed in the humiliating position I was compelled to occupy in Bitlis. It is most satisfactory for me to be able to state that, of the courage and good conduct of the gendarmerie I have no doubt whatever when once they are placed under honest and capable officers. Of course, they must be properly clothed, efficiently armed, and, besides receiving their pay regularly, should be properly rationed and foraged. All this must entail expense on the country, and it is well known that his Excellency Ghazee Osman, on this account, is anxious to do away with the force altogether.

The Commander-in-chief alleges that, as the allowance for a gendarmerie is deducted from the Army Estimates, it tends to weaken the defensive force of the country. He is desirous of reverting to the old zaptieh system, a kind of police militia that lent itself to the exercise of tyrannical power over the whole nation, and was utterly inefficient as a check on crime.

It has been condemned by all foreigners who have studied the effects of Turkish misrule, and protested against by all Ottoman subjects of every class but the ruling one.

To prove that a good gendarmerie force can add to the military strength of the country, I will here make an extract from one of my Reports to the Commander-in-chief, sent in on the 13th January, 1881 (No. 14, paragraph 9):—

"There should be especial care taken in selecting for the gendarmerie service old and experienced officers and soldiers, who have retired from the regular service with good character. Being chiefly composed of these, the force would come to be considered as a 'corps d'élite' most useful to the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in peace, and yet available for service in time of war, especially in case of invasion near the districts where they are employed. Taking into consideration that the gendarmerie of Kurdistan are on a frontier station, I have the honour to respectfully draw your attention to the immediate necessity of bringing this portion of the gendarmerie force into a state of efficiency."

I should not be surprised if the gendarmerie allowance disappeared from the forthcoming Budget next March. Ghazee Osman Pasha has just ordered certain Christian officers to resign their commissions in the force, and has made a regulation that for the future no Christian subject of the Sultan is to be allowed to hold a higher rank in the corps than that of sergeant. He has expressed his determination to dismiss all the English officers holding the rank of Colonels and Inspectors of Gendarmerie at the end of the year. Within the last few days he has cancelled the order appointing me to the Gendarmerie Inspectorship of Syria, and of another officer to that of Smyrna, on the grounds of our services being no longer required; and it is the general opinion of Turkish military men that the gendarmerie service is most certainly doomed to extinction if the present Commander-in-chief retains his office. I cannot admit that this Ottoman gendarmerie ever reached a state approaching to efficiency, but it was a vast improvement on the old system, and might, if well backed up, have led to good results in time.

Before concluding, I wish to be permitted to say a few words respecting the proposal of a Christian Governor for Armenia. I do not think it would be easy to find an honest and capable man of sufficient courage to undertake the responsibility. He would be well aware that if he persevered in a course of strict probity, he must fall the victim to Moslem intrigue. In British India some of the best governed native States are under a Mussulman ruler, but he rules with an English political Resident, armed with great authority, at his elbow. A Turkish Governor might be expected to govern wisely and well, if he was watched by an English Commissioner of Reforms, with strong support from the foreign Powers, aided by a police under the control of capable European officers. In the numerous councils and tribunals that make up the machinery of Government, there exists a paramount idea, which is the bond of union of all the officials that compose them, and that is, self-interest. It is plain that this motive power can be turned to the good of the country as well as of the individual, when it is clearly shown that there is advantage to be gained by achieving a reputation for honourable probity, and that disgrace and dismissal from office must ensue from misconduct. When the places at the Council board can only be filled by honest men, I believe there are honest men who will step forward from their present obscurity to fill them.

Hoping that your Excellency will be pleased to pardon me for the length of my communication, I venture to express a hope that before long some steps will be taken to secure for the unfortunate residents in Kurdish Armenia, the truth of whose sad condition it has been my task to verify, full protection for their lives and property, in return for the heavy taxation exacted from them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. G. C. NORTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

Composition and Constitution of the Gendarmerie Corps for Special Service in Kurdish Armenia.

THE corps to consist of twelve battalions, and, for purposes of inspection, to be divided into two brigades of six battalions each.

The battalion will be of a strength suitable to the requirements of its district; nominally it will consist of four companies. The company will be divided into four sections of infantry and two sections of cavalry, and the company strength, including officers, will consist of 113 men and 38 horses.

The company will be looked upon as the tactical unit of the force, and will be numbered throughout the respective brigades from 1 to 24. The section will be the unit of distribution.

Two entire companies will form the head-quarters and depôt at the chief seat of the Government, where the instruction of recruits will be carried out.

The battalion head-quarters in each police district to consist of three or more sections; in each sub-district or Kaïmakamlik one or more sections; at the Mudirlik or commune there should be a station of at least ten men, horse and foot.

The section must always be commanded by a subaltern officer, at least, and one man in the said section must be capable of acting as clerk and accountant; this is an important consideration, as the punctual payment of the men is a first necessity.

The allowance for a clerk will be granted to the officer commanding the detachment if he is capable of performing this duty himself.

A seniority list of officers and non-commissioned officers must be kept at head-quarters, and the claims to seniority established by this roster must be strictly enforced, as it is only by this means good discipline can be carried out. To lose steps in seniority will be the punishment for small breaches of duty in the commissioned and non-commissioned ranks.

The men of the force will also be divided into first and second class privates.

The composition of the battalion will be as follows:—

Composition of Battalion.

1 Battalion Chief.
1 Adjutant-Major.
1 Surgeon.
1 Veterinary Surgeon.
1 Battalion Paymaster.
1 Assistant Battalion Paymaster and Storekeeper.
1 Apothecary.
1 Hospital Sergeant.
1 Farrier.
1 Armourer Sergeant.
1 Bugle-Major.
1 Head Jailer.
4 Warders of the First Class.
12 Warders.

Four (more or less) companies of gendarmerie.

Composition of the Company.

1 Captain.
3 Lieutenants (1 of Cavalry).
3 Sub-Lieutenants (1 of Cavalry).
6 Sergeants.
2 Buglers.
1 Trumpeter.
64 Infantry, rank and file (including Corporals).
32 Cavalry Troopers (including Corporals).
1 Clerk. (If no person in the company can perform this duty.)

Head-quarter Staff.

1 Ferick Pasha, or Lieutenant-General Commanding the Gendarmerie Corps.
1 Mir Alai, or Colonel.
1 Kaïmakam, or Lieutenant-Colonel.
2 Staff Adjutant-Majors, to act as Majors of Brigade.
1 Paymaster-General.
1 Commissary.
1 Captain in charge of the Prison.
1 Lieutenant of Warders.
1 Musketry Instructor.
1 Riding Master.
1 Drill Instructor or Sergeant-Major.

A Permanent Board of Officers will form a Sub-Gendarmerie Commission to examine and select officers to rank of Captain. Two English Officers will be members of this Board.

The selection of officers above the rank of Captain to be made by the Gendarmerie Commission at the Seraskariat, of which the Presiding General is his Excellency Baker Pasha.

Remarks.

It is estimated that the expense for each battalion of four companies will be about £ T. 8,000 per annum, excluding forage and rations, which must be found by the agricultural inhabitants of their districts.

The whole gendarmerie force will be of a strength approximating to 5,500 officers and men.

It is to be taken into consideration that as order is re-established some reductions may be made in the force; also ultimately the establishment of a rural police, supported by the communes and under gendarmerie supervision, might form 25 per cent. of the original estimated strength of the proposed police force.

(Signed) C. G. C. NORTON,
Colonel, Imperial Ottoman Gendarmerie.

No. 224.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 19.)

E
(No. 1099.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 12, 1881.*

I INQUIRED of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to-day whether he had received my note asking for an audience with the Sultan, copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1075 of the 6th instant, and which was sent to the Porte on the 6th instant. His Excellency informed me that, owing to some accident, it had not reached his hands until Thursday the 8th; that it had then to be translated, and that he thought I might count upon being admitted to His Majesty's presence in the course of a week. "But," added his Excellency significantly, "before then, I trust the matter to which it refers will have received a solution."

Said Pasha also spoke to me in a similar sense, so that I am in hopes my note may not be without effect, and that it is in the contemplation of the Sultan at last to make a move in reference to the Armenian question, either by the appointment of a High Commissioner or by the publication of some sort of project of reform.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 225.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 19.)

E
(No. 1106.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 13, 1881.*

I AM happy to state that, after all, the controversy between the Catholicos of Sis and the Patriarch seems to have been adjusted, through the Patriarch having desisted from requiring the Catholicos of Sis to sign the last document submitted to him. My account of the last phase of this transaction, as contained in my despatch No. 1081 of the 6th December, was founded upon information supplied to me by M. Teheraz, the Secretary of the Patriarch, who described the first document signed by the Catholicos as a "Protocol," and the second, which he had refused to sign, as an "Act." In order, apparently, to minimize the importance of the Patriarch's having conceded the point, this gentleman, who appears to me to be exceedingly loose and inaccurate in his statements, writes me word that what the Catholicos of Sis originally signed was an "Act" of eighteen Articles, and that the subsequent document which he refused to sign was merely an "écrit" drawn up by the Conseil Religieux, and formulating certain "insignificant details."

M. Teheraz adds that the Patriarch considers the question completely at an end as between himself and the Catholicos of Sis, but his Beatitude, M. Teheraz says, maintains his complaint against the Porte in reference to the terms of the Berat issued to the Catholicos of Sis, which differs from the former Berats, inasmuch as it omits to mention that the Catholicate of Sis is under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Pressure had been put upon the Catholicos of Sis by the Patriarch to resign this objectionable Berat into the hands of the Porte, which apparently the Catholicos has not done. The settlement arrived at must therefore be considered as a compromise under which the Catholicos has maintained some of his pretensions, and has surrendered others.

The reason why so much importance was attached to the celebration of the religious service by the Catholicos in conjunction with the Patriarch, to which I referred in my former despatch, was that in doing so the former prayed for the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, thus recognizing his supremacy.

In any event, it is undoubtedly a good thing that the danger of schism, which threatened the Armenian Church in reference to this dispute, should have been averted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 226.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 833.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 19, 1881.

HER Majesty's Government approve the note addressed by you to Assim Pasha remonstrating against the release from prison of Daoud Effendi, ex-Kaïmakam of Zeitoun, of which a copy was inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 1049 of the 25th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 227.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20, 2 P.M.)

(No. 104. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, December* 20, 1881, 1·27 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's Nos. 383 and 384 of the 7th instant.

I had another opportunity yesterday of urging Prince Bismarck to join in pushing the Armenian question, but his Highness, while agreeing in the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, thinks that too much pressure on the Porte does more harm than good at present, because the Sultan resents pressure, and manifests his resentment by increased procrastination.

Prince Bismarck, therefore, thinks it would be as well to leave the Sultan time to reflect on the advice already given him by Lord Dufferin and his colleagues.

No. 228.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 447.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 19, 1881, 9·20 P.M.

ASSIM PASHA assures me that a High Commissioner for the eastern parts of Asia Minor will be nominated this week without fail.

No. 229.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 21, 2·45 P.M.)

(No. 449.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 21, 1881, 12·30 P.M.

THE Sultan has offered the Asia Minor Commissionership to Achmet Vefyk Pasha, formerly Ambassador at Paris, at one time Grand Vizier, and now Vali of Broussa.

No. 230.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 1112.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 16, 1881.

IN my despatch No. 1106 of the 13th instant I informed your Lordship that the difficulties between the Armenian Patriarch and the Catholicos of Sis had been arranged as far as concerned the relations between these two dignitaries. The inclosed extract from the "Phare du Bosphore" shows, however, that the Patriarch has not as yet succeeded in arriving at an understanding with the Sublime Porte on the position which the Sis Catholicos is to hold in his relations with the Ottoman Government.

It is not, I believe, quite certain that the Patriarch will persist in his resignation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore" of December 15, 1881.

LA PORTE ET LA DÉMISSION DU PATRIARCHE NERSÈS.—Ainsi que nous avons annoncé, sa Béatitude le Patriarche Arménien s'est rendu avant-hier à la Porte pour avoir une seconde entrevue avec son Excellence Djevdet Pacha. Étaient présents à cet entretien Vahan Effendi, Conseiller du Ministère de la Justice, Zizer Bey, Directeur du Bureau des Cultes, et le Vicaire du Patriarcat Arménien.

L'entrevue a duré quatre heures, et a eu pour objet principal la question du Catholicos de Sis (Cilicie). Le Ministre de la Justice a déclaré que la Porte était persuadée que ce Prélat est indépendant du Patriarcat de Constantinople, que le statut national, octroyé par le Gouvernement Impérial, n'est en vigueur que dans les diocèses ressortissant de ce Patriarcat, et que les diocèses et les Arméniens de Cilicie dépendent d'autres autorités religieuses.

Sa Béatitude a donné à ce sujet des explications détaillées, et a présenté à son Excellence les anciens Bérats accordés aux Catholicos de Sis, et dans lesquels il est clairement indiqué que ces Prélats sont placés sous la juridiction du Patriarcat de Constantinople. Mgr. Nersès a exhibé également un exemplaire d'une Ordonnance adressée par la Porte aux autorités de Cilicie après la Proclamation du Statut National, et par laquelle le Gouvernement recommande aux Gouverneurs de prêter aux Évêques leur concours pour l'application du Statut. Mgr. Nersès a présenté aussi un Iradé Impérial confirmant à la province le droit d'élire le Catholicos et au Patriarcat celui de sanctionner cette élection.

L'heure étant avancée, on a remis à une troisième entrevue la suite des débats afin de prendre une résolution définitive à ce sujet, et sa Béatitude a pris congé de son Excellence, après avoir déclaré qu'elle maintient sa démission.

Un télégramme adressé au Patriarche par le Conseil de la communauté Arménienne de Castambol exprime des regrets au sujet de sa démission, et prie sa Béatitude de continuer à exercer ses hautes fonctions.

Un journal Arménien annonce que Mgr. Nersès aurait demandé à la Porte l'autorisation de faire un voyage en Europe.

No. 231.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 1114.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 16, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a list of seven complaints supposed to have been formulated by the Armenian Patriarch against the Sublime Porte.

Since receiving the above, a copy has been read to me of the complaints of the Armenian Patriarch by his Secretary, which contains two additional Articles, in which the Patriarch takes exception to the manner in which the Porte is seeking to destroy the confidence in him of his co-religionists, and also to the manner in which Armenian books of history have been suppressed; but in other respects the substance of the two documents is identical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 231.

List of Seven Complaints supposed to have been formulated by the Armenian Patriarch against the Sublime Porte.

VOICI les principaux griefs formulés par le Patriarche Nersès :—

1. Suppression des rations de pain et de viande accordées par les Sultans à l'hôpital Arménien.

2. Pression exercée par le Gouvernement sur le Patriarcat à l'effet de rappeler de Van Mgr. Khirimian.

3. Accusations portées contre les Évêques d'Arabgir, de Mousch, et de Boulanik, d'avoir poussé le peuple à la révolte et refus du Gouvernement de les autoriser à se rendre

dans leurs Éparchies. Malgre les demandes du Patriarcat, la Porte refuse d'ordonner une enquête.

4. Refus de la Porte de substituer au Bérat actuel du Catholicos de Sis un autre contenant la formule consacrée que voici: "Le Catholicat de Sis fait partie intégrante du Patriarcat de Constantinople."

5. Admission au service de la police de certains individus renvoyés du Patriarcat et importance donnée à leurs faux rapports. Ces individus qui se trouvaient tantôt dans la misère, trahissent depuis une richesse suspecte.

6. Persécutions dirigées contre la presse Arménienne, notamment contre les éditeurs et les graveurs de "l'Histoire d'Arménie."

7. Situation intolérable dans les provinces créée par les efforts du Gouvernement de combattre l'autorité et le prestige du Patriarcat.

No. 232.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1121. Confidential.)
Constantinople, December 19, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the nine heads under which the Armenian Patriarch has submitted his grievances to the Porte. They have been communicated to me by the Patriarch's Secretary, M. Tcheraz. Though the wording is occasionally different, they are substantially identical with what I have already communicated to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1114 of the 16th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 232.

List of Grievances of Armenian Patriarch communicated to the Earl of Dufferin by M. Tcheraz.

(Confidentielle.)

LE Patriarcat Arménien se plaint:—

1. De ce que la Sublime Porte a délivré au Catholicos de Sis un Bérat en contravention avec les droits et prérogatives du Patriarcat et les Canons de l'Église Arménienne.

2. De ce que la Sublime Porte a supprimé la ration de pain et de viande octroyée par les Sultans pour la nourriture des centaines de malades de l'hôpital Arménien de Yed Kouli.

3. De ce que la Sublime Porte a mandé a Constantinople: l'Archevêque Krikoris, Prélat de Mousch, l'Archevêque Eznik, Prélat d'Arabkei, l'Archimandrite Hoosep, Vice-Prélat de Boulanouk, et le Prêtre Parsegh de Boulanouk, qui ne sont ni jugés ici, ni renvoyés dans leurs diocèses.

4. De ce que la Sublime Porte insiste pour mander à Constantinople l'Archevêque Krimian de Van, ex-Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie.

5. De ce que la Sublime Porte vise à réduire graduellement les prérogatives et l'autorité du Patriarcat, tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces.

6. De ce que la Sublime Porte, en attachant de l'importance aux calomnies de quelques intrigants contre les Prélats et les Administrateurs des Évêchés, met injustement en suspicion la fidélité du Patriarcat et de la nation.

7. De ce que la Sublime Porte ordonne aux autorités des provinces de dissoudre les Comités chargés de propager l'instruction et de recueillir des fonds pour l'entretien des églises et des écoles nécessiteuses, et d'intercepter les reçus délivrés pour ces cotisations.

8. De ce que la Sublime Porte interdit rigoureusement l'impression de l'histoire, les tableaux et les chansons Arméniens, et soumet à l'interrogatoire et à l'emprisonnement ceux qui les ont imprimés antérieurement, ce qui a fait mourir en prison un malheureux typographe qui était père de famille.

9. De ce que la Sublime Porte ne veut pas prendre en considération les nombreuses réclamations que le Patriarche lui a formulées verbalement ou par écrit pour le redressement des griefs en question.

No. 233.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1124.)
Constantinople, December 19, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Bennet, giving some interesting details respecting agricultural and commercial activity in the Adana Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Lieutenant Bennet to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 24.)
Adana, December 6, 1881.

My Lord,

THE farmers of Adana are awakening to the fact that their primitive system of agriculture is capable of improvement, the Vali himself is taking interest in the subject, and although up to the present the only signs of progress almost have been the introduction of a few reaping machines, we are expecting to plunge almost at once into an advanced stage of high farming. Reaping machines are being ordered in numbers, and will, I expect, command a ready sale, and, inasmuch as the people of this country are incapable to effect any slight repairs that may be wanted, a constant supply will be necessary. An order has been sent also to England for 37,000 fr. worth of high-class machinery, consisting, I believe, of three steam-engines, a plough for use by steam, and a threshing machine. The expectations as to the capabilities of these machines are extravagant in the extreme, one of the foremost people assuring me that a steam-plough would do about 600 donums, *i.e.*, 120 acres, per diem, and the Vali rubbed his hands in glee as he talked of the possibility of working all night by the light of the moon. He was very anxious, I am told, to telegraph to Roumelia for a cargo of straw, so as to be able to try whether the threshing machine would bruise and chop it satisfactorily immediately on arrival, but was over-persuaded. The engines are to be used also to bring in the produce from the farms, and run down with it to Mersina, the idea being that a traction engine much resembles an express train; but I will not weary your Lordship with further nonsense of this sort. There is only one person who professes to understand the machinery that is *en route*, a young Turk who has spent some years in an Agricultural College in Paris, and who has come here expressly to undertake the working. I myself know nothing about these things, but I have the advantage of being able to read English, and I have been making some rough calculations in order that I might be able to judge what chance of success there might be for foreign speculation in this line, and the results I have obtained are so promising that I have no choice but to make them public; but I must take this early opportunity of disclaiming at once any responsibility for my calculations, and I must particularly caution any one who may be tempted to inquire further into the matters referred to that, of all the parts of the Turkish Empire, the Province of Adana has perhaps just claim to being considered the most dangerous to have any dealings in.

For general information about the Adana Plain, I must refer to my No. 2 of the 29th April, 1881, which is, I believe, published.

I will first consider the subject of steam-ploughing, and take a case I know of a farm of about 1,200 acres. In winter, from October to May, for 210 days there are 10 men and 60 oxen constantly ploughing. Perhaps they are hindered by the heavy rains for 30 days, so we have them at work for 180 days ploughing—each man using three pairs of oxen-ploughs on an average, counting land that has to be broken after lying idle—3 donums a-day (5 donums is 1 acre near enough). The total quantity ploughed is therefore $180 \times 30 = 5{,}400$ donums. The expenses are somewhat as follows: 10 men's wages and clothing, at 525 piastres each for the 210 days = 5,250 piastres. Allowances: the product from a portion of land sown with cotton or sesame, say 500 piastres each = 5,000 piastres. Food, at 2 piastres each per diem = 4,200 piastres; 60 oxen, at 1 piastre each per diem = 12,600 piastres. Interest on original cost of 60 oxen for eight months (two-thirds of a year, oxen rest for a month after the ploughing season); average cost per ox, 800 piastres; $800 \times 60 = 48{,}000$ piastres. Taking two-thirds of this sum, and calculating interest at 15 per cent., not at all high out here, we have to pay 15 per cent. on 32,000 piastres, or 4,800 piastres. Total expenses: 5,250+5,000+4,200+12,600

+ 4,800 = 31,850 piastres, or nearly at the rate of 6 piastres per donum. Now let us see what a steam-plough will do. The soil being a stoneless light loam, and perfectly level, I think we may assume that an ordinary single engine and anchor plough machine will do 50 donums, *i.e.* 10 acres, a-day. I may say at once that I am satisfied that it would not pay a native farmer to have a steam-plough for his sole use—theoretically it might, but not practically. Ploughing goes on all the year round, so that, were a Company to send out twenty steam-ploughs, and scatter them about the plain, we may take it that, including stoppages from rain, removals, or other causes (but counting Sunday as a working day), it would get work to do on 300 days in the year, or a machine would do 15,000 donums per annum.

The following are roughly the expenses :—

	£
8-horse power portable steam-engine	210
Cultivating tackle complete	431
Packing and transport, say	159
Total	800

800*l.* = 107,200 piastres. Adana piastre runs about 134 to the £ English. Interest on this at 5 per cent. English rate = 5,360 piastres. Coal is 2*l.* 10*s.* a-ton at Adana; wood might come cheaper. An engine burns about 32 lbs. an hour, or, say, 3 cwt., *i.e.*, 7*s.* 6*d.* worth, a day of eleven hours = 50 piastres. Total for the year 50 × 300 = 15,000 piastres. One engineer at £ T. 8 a-month = 12,864 piastres per annum; two men at 5 piastres each = 3,650 piastres (the engineer would probably be less). Total expenses, 5,360 + 15,000 + 12,864 + 3,650 = 36,874 piastres, or 2½ piastres per donum. Assuming, then, that farmers would willingly pay 5 piastres a donum to have their land ploughed for them—and I have been assured they would—we have a profit of 15,000 × 2½ = 37,500 piastres = 280*l.* English. Deducting 80*l.* for contingencies, wear and tear and removals, we still have a profit of 25 per cent., and so could do it at a cheaper rate.

I do not know whether a special form of plough will be necessary; the soil is very rich, and deep-ploughing may have the effect of a too vigorous growth; the plough of the country furrows along about 4 inches deep, throwing out the earth on either side, but not turning it over. On these and other technical questions I can offer no opinion.

I will next consider steam threshing machines. At present men are hired to do the work; the farmer feeds them and their horses, and gives them 10 per cent. of what they thresh out, but the work takes a long time, extending over three months, and there is much waste and deterioration, and I have heard it asserted that by the time the work is done the amount a farmer receives, not counting the tithe, is less by one-quarter of the original amount. There cannot be the slightest doubt that the farmers would willingly give 15 per cent. of the grain to have it all done for them by machinery, the work being better and quicker done.

The expenses will be somewhat as under :—

	£
One portable steam-engine, 8-horse power, packed	280
One machine to thresh the corn and bruise and chop the straw, packed ..	260
Transport, say	110
Total	650

The work performed will be 32 bushels per hour = 40 quarters per diem of 10 working hours, and supposing that the corn must all be threshed within 60 days, each machine will do 2,400 qrs. Taking 15 per cent. of this gives us 360 qrs. as pay. The value of a quarter of wheat around Adana may be taken as 180 piastres, so that one machine will make 360 × 180 = 64,800 piastres, or 483*l.* English. The expenses would be about 20*l.* for an engine-driver for two months, 20*l.* for extra labour, and about 30*l.* for coal—total 70*l.*; allowing 63*l.* for unforeseen circumstances, we still have a net profit of 350*l.* in two months on an original outlay of 650*l* ! We may assume that there are 60,000 qrs. of wheat to be threshed on the Adana Plain; there would then be work for at least twenty such machines for threshing only, and other uses might be found for the engines the rest of the year. These figures are so extraordinary that they are scarcely credible. I cannot, however, find my error.

The only other subject on which I shall trouble your Lordship with details is the railway from Adana to Mersina (*vide* my No. 12 of the 11th May, 1881). I hear there are now at least three applicants in the field for a concession, but the Government, I understand, are averse to granting a concession for anything but a large railway, in addition to their usual objection to any progress.

This, I roughly guess, will cost between 150,000*l.* and 200,000*l.*, as there would be several bridges to make and a new road throughout; the distance is about 43 miles over the plain, a dead level, but the permanent way would have to be raised about 4 feet to avoid floods. What I have always thought suitable for the country is a light pioneer railway, 24 in. gauge, steel rails, &c., the permanent way to be laid on the existing road, which is wide enough to admit of its being used for ordinary purposes as well. Adana Plain, so far as a railway is concerned, is practically an island, that is, it is entirely surrounded by mountains or sea, and at present it is not more than about half developed.

The time may come when the mountains may be pierced and a larger gauge advisable, the pioneer line may be employed in another quarter as a feeder, but there is no likelihood of this being done at present; as a commencement, therefore, a light line is best. Such a line would cost, I believe, at the outside, 50,000*l.*

It is extremely difficult to arrive at an idea of the present cost of transport between Adana, Tarsus, and Mersina. The freight charges are subject to great variations, and the export and import Returns, besides being unreliable, include the exports from Ayas, Karatash, and Selefkia. Some seasons large quantities of grain are shipped from the interior, and again sometimes there is a partial failure of crops on the Adana Plain. There can be no doubt, however, that the average produce from the Adana Plain is increasing, and will continue to increase.

The cost of freight varies from 2 to 3, and even 4 piastres the kilé, or bushel. Again, the whole does not come from Adana, but is picked up at various portions of the road. The best portion of the plain is, however, between the Adana River and the Jeihan. I think the following assumptions are reasonable :—

That, in the future, the exports and imports of the district will not, on the average, be below 50,000 tons per annum. Of this about 10,000 tons may be allotted to Ayas, Karatash, and Selefkia, with which the railway will have nothing to do. They do not at present amount to this, but we must allow for a possible development of the rivers by steam-tugs; at present barges navigate the rivers. We have, then, 40,000 tons landed at and shipped from Mersina itself. Of this we may average half from Tarsus at 10 piastres freight per quarter, and half from Adana at 20 piastres. A good camel takes 1 quarter, or about 450 lbs. weight. There will then be 188,631 camel-loads at 15 piastres. This amounts to 2,829,465 piastres, or over 21,000*l.* English, and many people put it higher. The working expenses of the railway, and rent of road, would certainly be covered by the passenger traffic, and, making a necessary deduction on the cost of transport of one-half, railways being obliged to do it much cheaper, we shall still have over 10,000*l.* profit or interest, or 20 per cent. on 50,000*l.*

I give these results for what they may be worth. I do not profess to have any knowledge on the subject, and out here, with no books save a few catalogues to consult, and no one with any practical knowledge to assist one, it is scarcely to be wondered at if I look on my own results with suspicion. I am very doubtful about steam ploughing, I think I may have over-estimated the quantity of work a machine will do, or under-estimated the amount done in the existing fashion; about the success of a railway I feel less doubtful, but as regards steam threshing there can be no doubt; but let any one who may be attracted by the programme beware, and not entrust any one in these parts with the smallest share in the management of any undertaking.

There are other ventures which may also be worth inquiry. The introduction of a few light-draft steam-tugs for the rivers of the plain to take the barges to and from Mersina is one; the proximity of coal to iron in the Karsanti region may be a lure to those who understand iron smelting, or the marble near Tarsus, or the introduction of simple agricultural machinery such as horse-rakes, drills, harrows, &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 234.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 508.)

My Lord, *Vienna, December* 23, 1881.

YOUR Lordship has repeated to me a telegram from Lord Dufferin, stating that the Sultan had offered the Commissionership in Asia Minor to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha.

As his Excellency has had no personal acquaintance with the Pasha, I trust that I may may not be considered as stepping beyond my province if I give your Lordship my

impressions of a man whom in many respects I regarded as one of the most remarkable of those whom I met in Turkey.

Ahmed Vefyk has a mine of general information, and great acquaintance with the literature of all nations.

He is keenly alive to the failings and shortcoming of his own Government, and is urgent for reforms, but he is, or was, strongly opposed to these reforms being upon a European or Western model.

When at a distance from Constantinople he is generally indifferent to the instructions he receives from the Porte, and sometimes also to the laws and regulations.

But, on the other hand, he has a quality very rare amongst Turkish officials.

His sympathies are invariably enlisted on the side of the poor, and of those who represent themselves as oppressed by a rich or powerful neighbour, and it used commonly to be said that, when he had to decide, the rich man had no chance of success against a poor man, however good his cause.

My experience of Turkey has given me a very strong conviction that the prosperity or misery of a province will always depend more upon the personal character of the Ruler than upon any regulations that can be framed for its benefit, and I therefore believe that the wild districts of Asia Minor would be fortunate in being placed under Ahmed Vefyk, but if as Commissioner he is to be called upon to frame rules for their administration, I should expect him to be altogether opposed to everything approaching to European intervention or supervision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 235.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 480. Confidential. Extender.) *Berlin, December* 20, 1881.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's despatch No. 492 of the 7th instant, instructing me to urge upon the German Government to join in pushing the Armenian question, I asked Prince Bismarck yesterday, as I had asked Count Hatzfeldt on previous occasions, whether he would not exert his great influence at Constantinople to persuade the Sultan of the advisability of nominating a High Commissioner for Armenia at once, and introducing reforms as soon as might be for the good of Turkey, which Germany had as much at heart as England.

Lord Dufferin, I said, who had hitherto carried out the policy of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople with so much ability and success, had informed your Lordship that the Sultan would do nothing further about Armenia until after His Majesty had heard from Reschid Bey what was thought on the subject at Berlin, and I therefore hoped his Highness would support the policy of Her Majesty's Government in regard to Armenia, which was that of the Berlin Congress, in his communications with Reschid Bey and Ali Nizami Pasha.

Prince Bismarck said, in reply, that much as he shared the wish of Her Majesty's Government to see the Turkish Empire prosper and progress, he doubted whether much good would be achieved at present by constantly urging reforms on the Sultan, who only manifested his resentment to foreign pressure by increased procrastination, and he therefore thought it would be as well not to press too much, and leave His Majesty time to reflect on the advice already given him by the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 236.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 482.) *Berlin, December* 23, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 1062 of the 28th ultimo, inclosed in your Lordship's No. 502 of the 16th instant, on the subject of Dr. Strousberg and the

Bagdad Railway, I beg to state that the Sultan's Aide-de-camp who recommends him to the Porte is said to be Drigalsky Pasha, but that Dr. Strousberg's applications are not countenanced by the German Government.

The Sultan's emissaries to Berlin, Ali Nizami Pasha and Reschid Bey, have endeavoured to interest the German Government in the concession and construction of the Bagdad Railway, but without success.

The German Government are very averse to assuming any responsibility in regard to commercial undertakings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 237.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 511.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 28, 1881, 6·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING is Sir Henry Elliot's opinion of Ahmed Vefyk Pasha:—

Well read, keenly alive to failings of Turkish Government, and urgent for reforms, but strongly opposed to their being upon an European or Western model, and to European intervention or supervision. When distant from Constantinople, indifferent to instructions, and sometimes to laws and regulations. Sympathies entirely with poor and oppressed, as against rich and powerful.

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